

American Girl

September/October 2004

\$3.95

Take a
Friendship
Quiz!

Make Yummy
Waffles

New **School?**
Start off Right!

Cute Crafts for
Halloween

Plus!
Adorable
Animal
Posters!



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See AG Online!

Visit americangirl.com
to peek behind the scenes
of AG magazine!

Always get a parent's permission
before surfing the Web or giving out
your full name, address, or any
other personal info.



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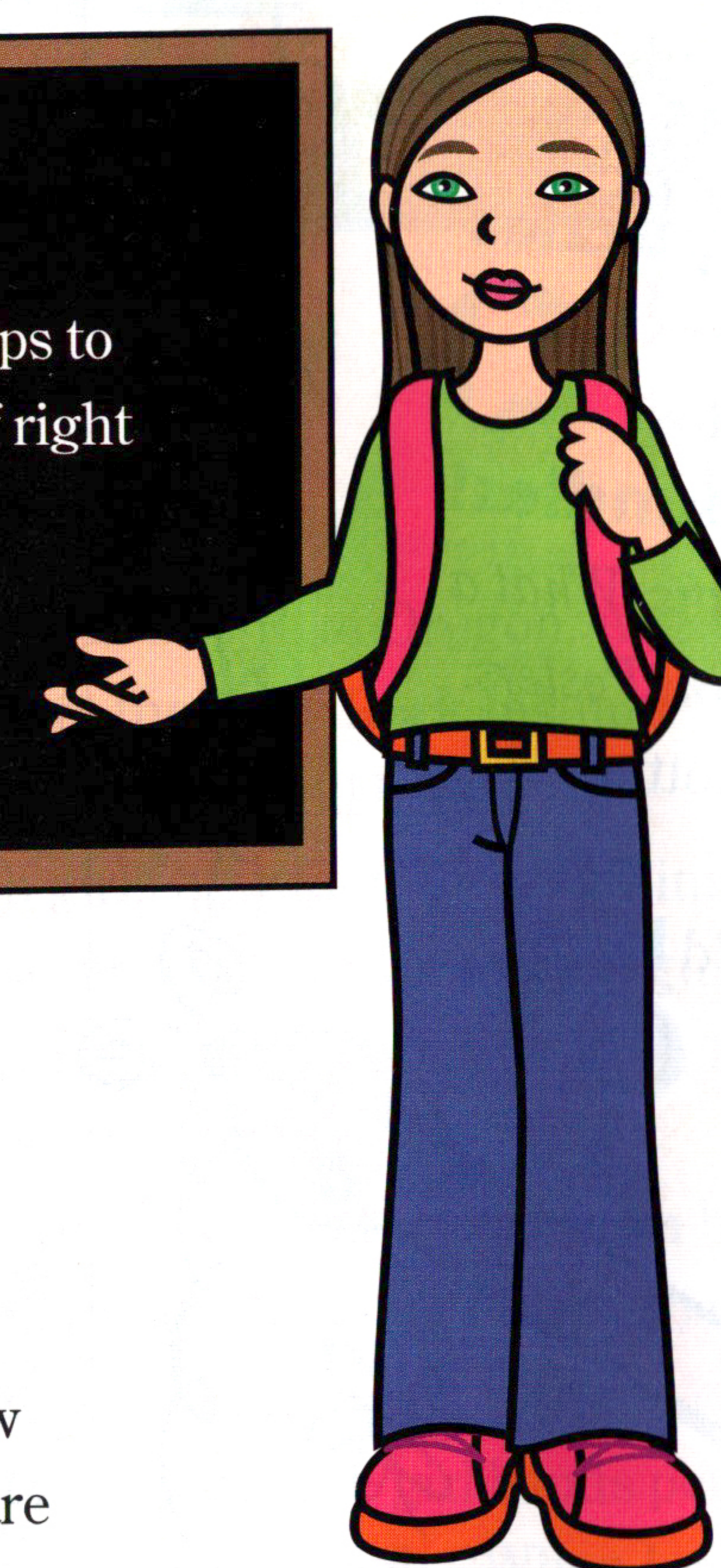
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About the Cover

Meet Tara E., age 10. We
asked her to pick what
she likes best about fall.

New school supplies or new shoes?

New school supplies

Pencils or pens? Pens

Music or gym? Music. I play the violin.

Spooky or pretty costumes? Spooky

Candy bars or candy corn? Candy
bars! I love Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

Tara E.

To see more pictures from our photo shoot,
go to "Behind the Scenes" on page 49.



Dear Readers,

Ta-da! We've freshened our look, and we've added more of the things you love. Best of all, you can be a part of the magazine in more ways than ever!

Send us a piece of your artwork for our new **art gallery** (page 7). Write to us about your friends, and your story could be in Friendship Matters on page 26. Mail in your funniest **jokes, photos, and puzzles** for Brain Waves (page 38).

And, in each issue, enter our Win It! contest. This time we're giving away **100 Book Bundles!** Each bundle includes the books *Room Crafts*, *What a Girl Loves Puzzle Book*, *Sticker Art*, and *Mini Posters*. Contest rules and information are at the bottom of this page.

What do you think of our changes? We'd **love** to know—**write us!**

Your friends at *American Girl*
American Girl Magazine™
 8400 Fairway Place
 Middleton, WI 53562

Win It!

To enter AG's Win It contest, just send a postcard by October 15, 2004, with your first and last name, address, and phone number to:

Win It!—S/O
American Girl Magazine™
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

Official Rules

1. Drawing not open to employees of American Girl and its affiliates.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by October 15, 2004. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed.
4. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
5. Void where prohibited by law.

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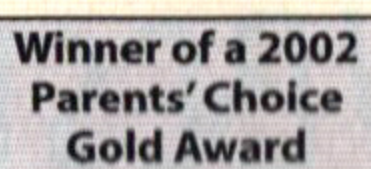
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American Girl

Girls

E X P R E S S

School of Rock

The new school year rocks for Una R. of Oregon. After her regular classes, Una heads to the Girls Rock Institute, where she learns how to play in a rock-and-roll band.

Music counselors teach girls how to play everything from guitar and keyboard to bass and drums. Una chose guitar. "You develop calluses on your fingers," explains Una, 10, who practices almost every day. "It's hard!"

At the start of classes, the girls divide up and form bands. Una played guitar for The Pink Panthers. "The keyboardist came up with the lyrics, then we all came up with the chords," says Una. After weeks of rehearsing, the girl bands performed live at a local club. "When I got up on-stage, I remembered everything because our band worked so hard," says Una, who wants to be a rock musician when she grows up. "Practice pays off!"

Go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com to hear Una perform "Untuned," a song she wrote herself!



Did You Know?

You'll flip for these fun facts!

Happy Thoughts

Adjust your outlook for Positive Attitude Month in October. Before you get out of bed each morning, tell yourself something positive, like, "No one's smile shines exactly like mine!"

Buzzword

bailiwick

How to say it: BAY-lee-wick

What it means: one's area of skill

One way to use it: Since Sydney's bailiwick is drawing, she chose to illustrate her class project on flowers.



The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? The answer is on page 42.

Find It!



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

Lunch Box

Add zip to your chips.
Place chips and a pinch of seasoning in a sandwich bag. Seal bag and shake. Add more seasoning, if desired.



True Story

Sofi C. dreams of the stars—and lands on Mars!

Dear American Girl,

Through school, I entered an essay contest to name the two robotic rovers NASA scientists were sending to Mars. Because of my essay, NASA changed their names from Rover A and Rover B to "Spirit" and "Opportunity."

In my essay, I described how I used to live in a Russian orphanage. It was dark, cold, and lonely. At night, I looked up at the sparkly sky and dreamed I could fly there. In America, I can make all my dreams come true. I'm thankful for the spirit and the opportunity America provides.

NASA flew me to the Kennedy Space Center so I could see the launch of Spirit. Now, every time I look into outer space, I realize it was all meant to be!

Sincerely,

Sofi C.
Age 10, Arizona



Sofi with a model of a rover.

"Determined"

Head blanks out,
Mind leaves soul.
I feel used up,
But I am whole.
She is moving fast,
But I move faster.
I take the ball,
And head past her.
Finally the whistle blows,
The game is done.
A difficult match,
But we have won!



Jenna H.
Age 13, California

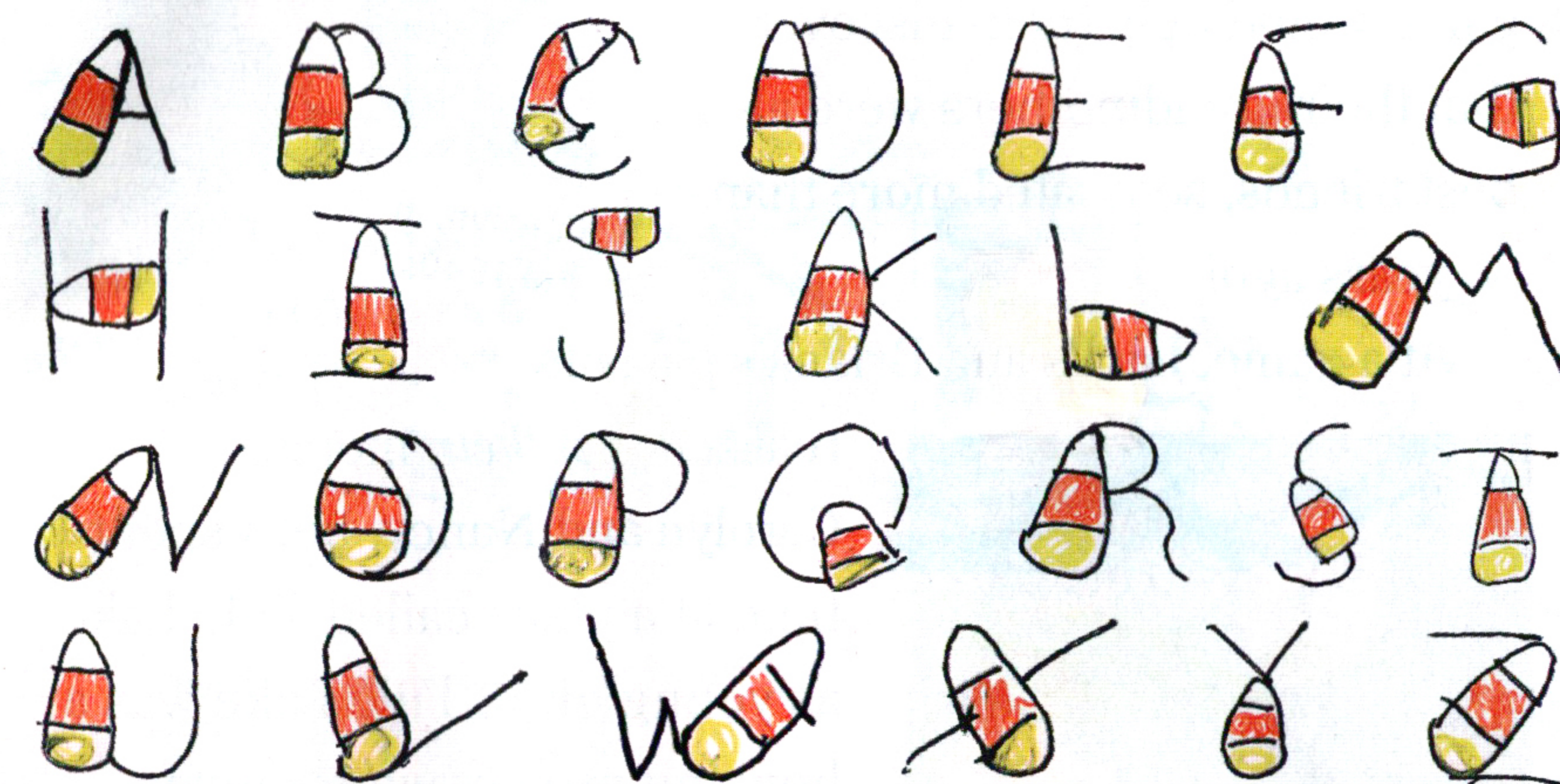


Sweet Script

Decorate for Halloween with these clever candy corn letters sent in by Caitlin L. of Virginia.



Caitlin L.

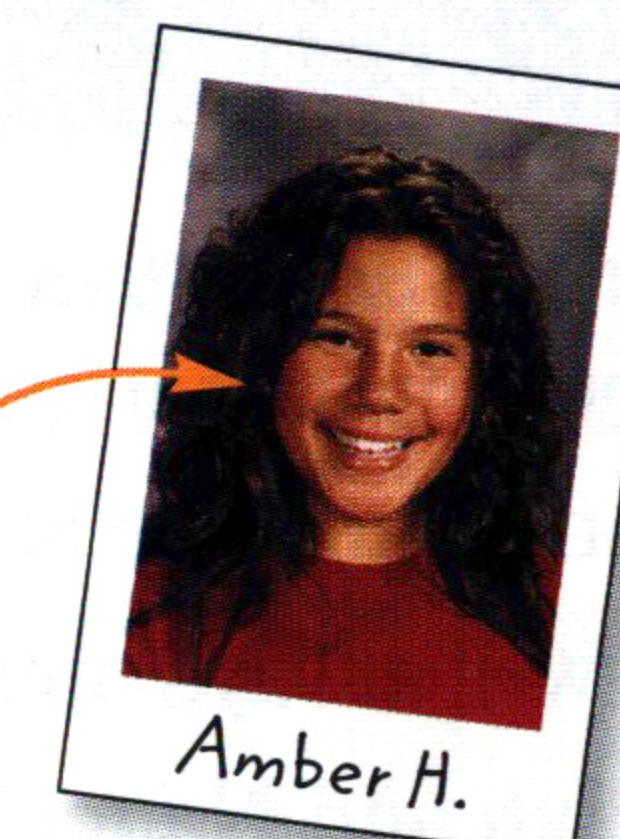


Picture Perfect

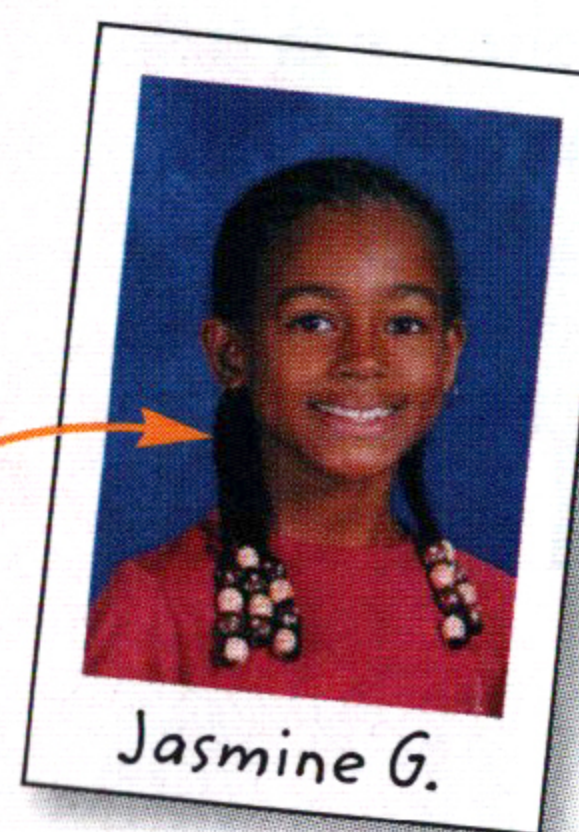
Do you wish your school photo looked more like the real you? These tips will help you look your best for any portrait!



Holding a smile for the camera can be tough. Try giggling to make your grin look natural.



Don't wear clothing that's too wild. Your face should be the focus, not your outfit.



Wear your hair down or partially pulled back. If you style your hair in a ponytail, it can make you look like you don't have hair.



* For more photo fun, turn to page 25.

Crafty Kit

We asked a reader to review this compact craft kit.



AG Poll

In our May/June issue, we asked what's the first thing you do when you get home from school.



Nearly **240** of you said you grab a snack, while **124** of you get a head start on homework.

Next question:

There's nothing better than a birthday. What's your favorite way to celebrate? Circle your choice.

- * At your favorite restaurant with family
- * A slumber party with your girlfriends
- * At the bowling alley with your boy and girl pals

Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your first and last name, address, and birth date.



Lunch Box

Add
Place
seal
Seal
mol



Help Wanted!

Does your mom or dad have a dream job and you get to help out? Perhaps your dad owns a candy shop and you are his taste tester. Maybe your mom designs toys, and you help provide ideas. Write to us, describing your parent's dream job and how you're involved. Send your letters to the address on page 2.

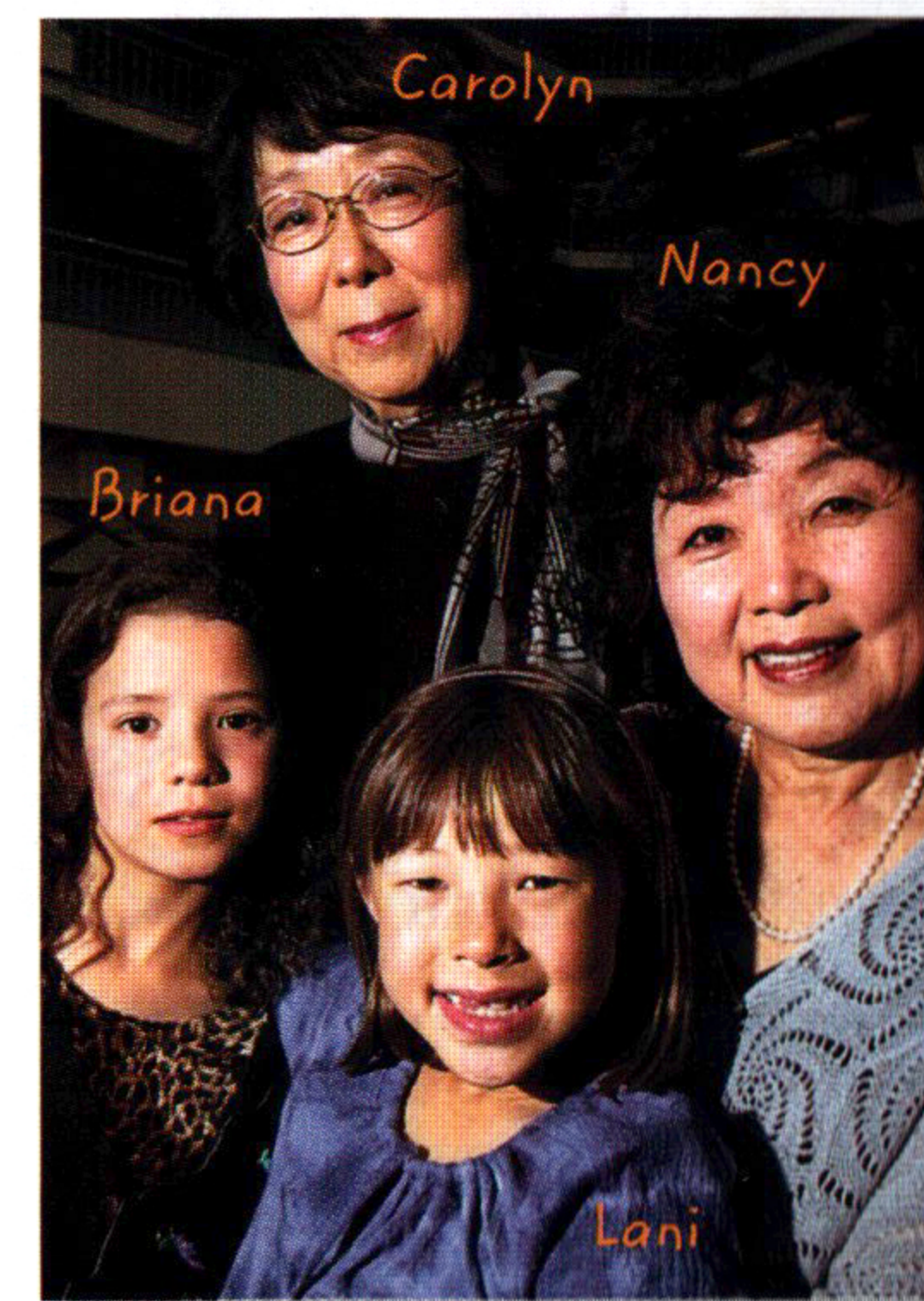


Photo: San Francisco Chronicle

Together at Last

Best friends Lani T. and Briana A. love playing soccer together. Who could have guessed that a soccer game would help them discover that their grandmothers were also best friends, separated more than 50 years ago!

At a game, Lani's and Briana's parents



Reunited! Both pairs of best friends come together at last.

When they were forced to leave their homes and live at Tule Lake, they didn't see each other again. "Nancy was always on my mind," recalls Carolyn.

Carolyn and Nancy would have never reunited if it weren't for their granddaughters' friendship. When the women came together after so many years, Lani and Briana watched them hug. Says Lani, 9, "I could tell they were old friends!"



Carolyn, in the 1940s.

Nancy, about the same time.

realized that *their* moms, Carolyn and Nancy, both spent time at a place called Tule Lake as young girls. Tule Lake was a housing project where many Japanese Americans in California were forced to live during World War II, because the U.S. government was afraid they were spies.

Before the war, Carolyn and Nancy had been close friends, and loved to play with dolls together.

When they were forced to leave

Grandparents' Day

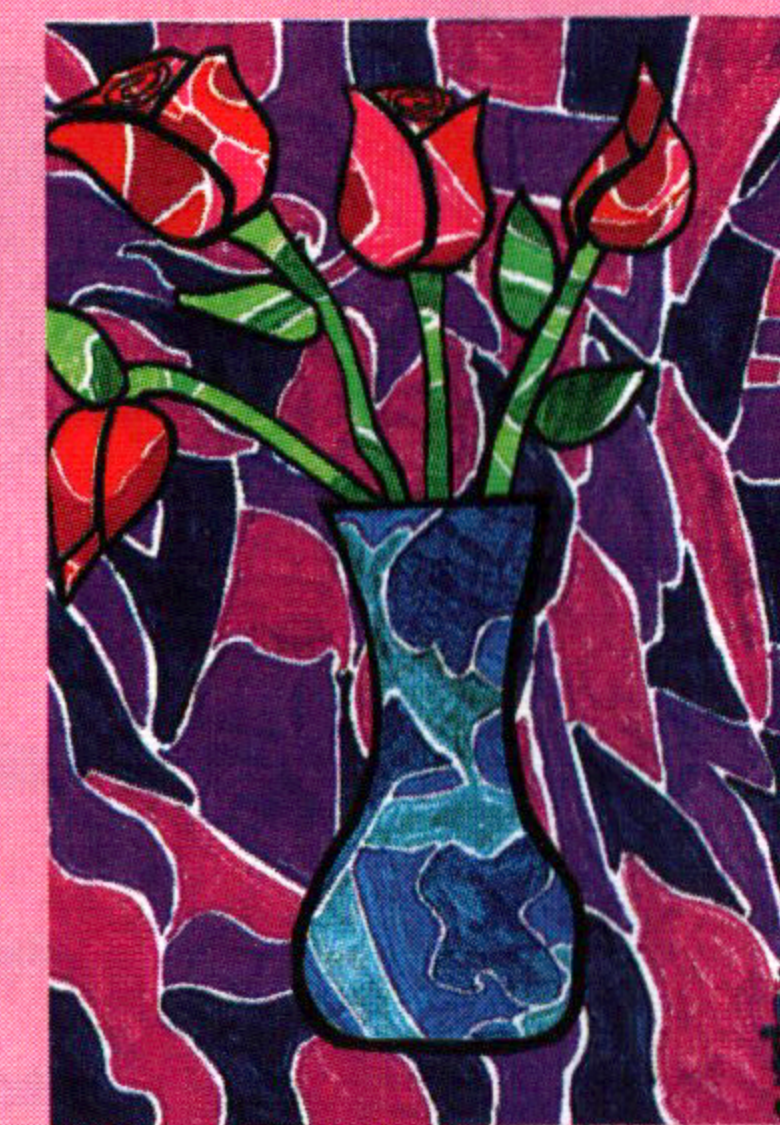
Show your grandparents you care on **Grandparents' Day, September 12**. Take your grandparents out on a date—go to a movie or play mini golf. Be sure to ask them questions about their childhoods. You'll learn something new!

AG Art Gallery

Enjoy this art sent in by AG readers like you.



Rina H.
Age 12, Maine



Calan Y.
Age 12, Utah

We're looking for **artwork** for our gallery. Send **color** copies of your original artworks to the address on page 2. **Sorry**, we can't return entries.

Crafty Kit

We asked a reader to review this compact craft kit.



"I like the mini sand art kit because it's portable and the sand comes in many colors. Plus, the pictures can be used by boys and girls!"



Clip Crafts,
\$4.99 each
★★★★★
Stefanie B.
Age 12, New York

Photo: Basic Fun

Shining Star

When Morene J. learned that a school reopening in her Illinois town didn't have enough money for a library, she and her friends took action.

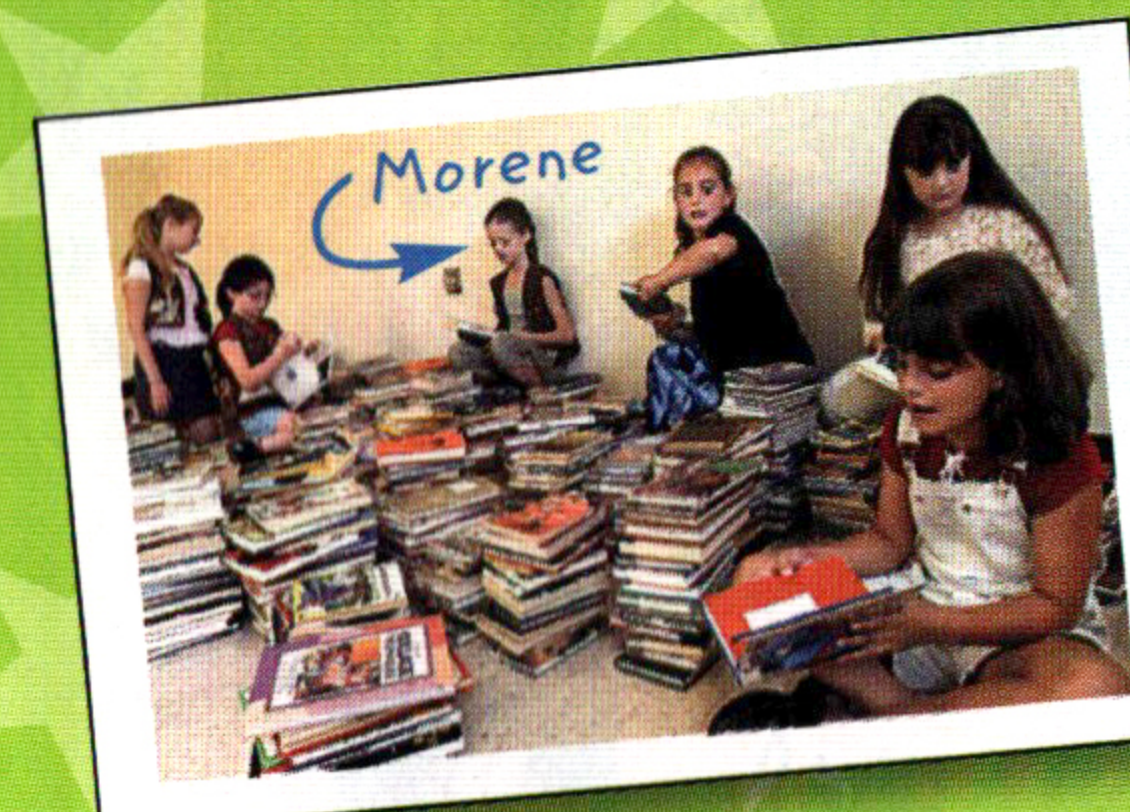


Photo: Chicago Tribune

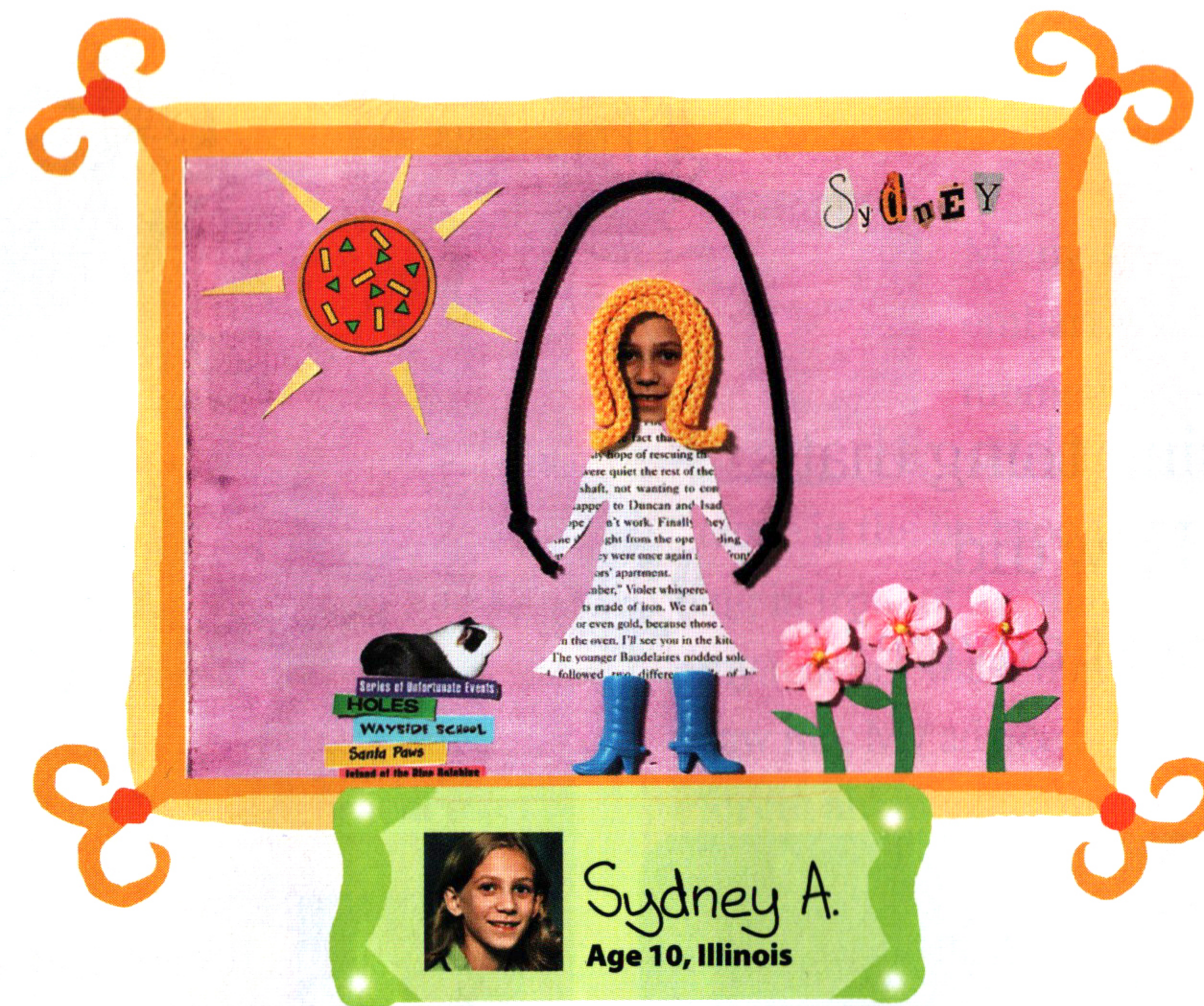
"You know how two things go together? Well, you have to have books in a school," insists Morene, age 10. Her Girl Scout troop formed the "Book Posse," and set out to collect people's unwanted books. They handed out fliers, set up collection bins, and even spoke at a town meeting. Each book had to be cleaned, sorted, and shelved. That's hard work, since the girls rounded

up more than 8,000 books! "I'm proud when I go to the library," Morene says, "especially when kids come up to ask me where things are!"

You can shine, too.
Public libraries often take book donations. Sort through your own bookshelf and donate a few volumes yourself!

Super Self-Portraits

By creatively using clay, beads, and markers, you showed us who you are—inside and out! Here are some of our favorite masterpieces.



New Contest: Save-the-Earth Inventions

Attention, all inventors! To celebrate Earth Day, we're looking for your clever invention to help save the planet, whether it be self-erasing notebook paper or a car that runs on candy! Send your invention to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date. Deadline: October 10, 2004. Winners will appear in the March/April 2005 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.

Photos: Jamie Young Illustrations: Lauren Scheuer

Last year you sent in more than 38,000 contest entries—that's half of all the mail we got!

Yikes!

What's the most embarrassing thing that's happened to you at school? How did you handle it? What's your best advice?



The other day I spilled blue Kool-Aid all over my white shirt in the cafeteria. Everyone laughed and my face got red, but when I saw my shirt, I thought, "What a cool-looking tie-dyed shirt!" So that's what I told everyone and I got compliments on it the whole day!

Shelby A.
Age 7, Mississippi



When I was in fifth grade, I called my male teacher "Mom" by accident. Everybody started laughing. But I just told myself that everyone has embarrassing moments and I had just had mine!

Josie H.
Age 12, Illinois



One time I pulled out my chair to sit down but totally missed and ended up on the floor. Everyone started laughing but I realized they weren't laughing at me, they were laughing at what I had done.

Joy L.
Age 10, Florida



It was picture day at school and all of the girls were twisting their hair around combs to be silly. I played along and got the comb stuck in my hair! My mom had to come to school to cut it out. Everyone made a joke of it, though, so I felt better.

Megan Z.
Age 11, Florida



I once walked right into a door. Without thinking, I said, "Oh, excuse me," as if it were a person. Next time I get embarrassed, I'll probably just crack a joke like, "That took me weeks of practice."

Jill B.
Age 12, Wisconsin

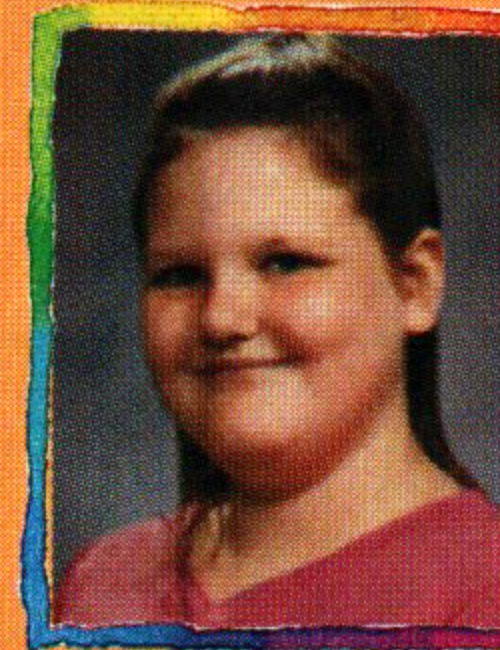


My most embarrassing moment was when I was alone in the bathroom dancing in front of the mirror and my teacher walked in and saw me. My advice is to just forget about it and move on.

Megan J.
Age 11, Michigan



Big Truth
If you don't make it a big deal, it won't seem like one.



In second grade I got my leg stuck between two bars in a handrail and the Fire Department had to rescue me. If people make fun of you, just ignore them.

Jessica K.
Age 11, Florida



One time my friend told the whole class who I had a crush on. I was embarrassed but I admitted it. I just figured that soon it would be yesterday's gossip.

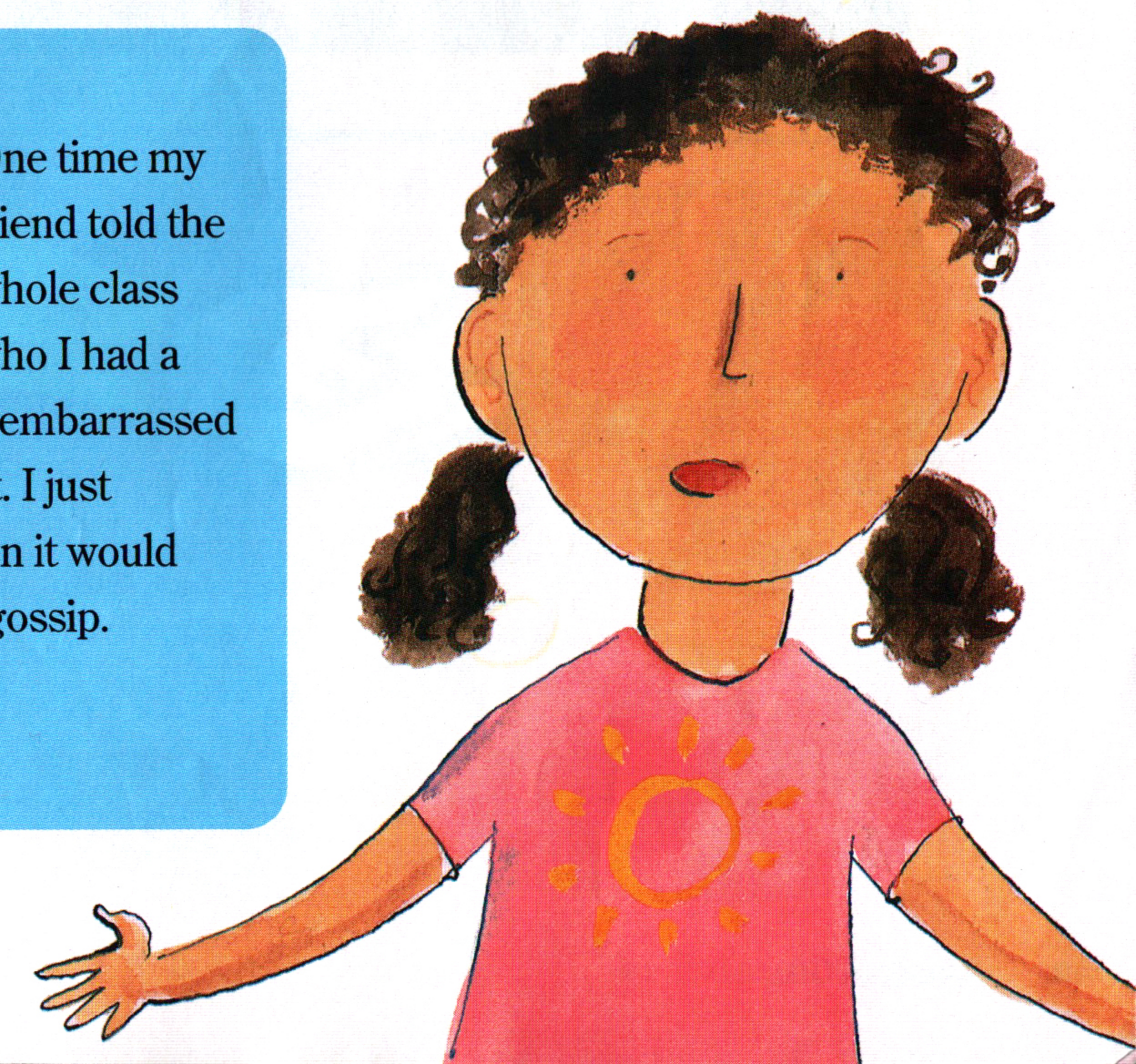
Emily W.
Age 12, Kentucky

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Quitting.

Have you ever quit an activity, such as a sport or music lessons? Was it a tough decision? Or was there a time when you almost quit, but didn't? What's your advice for girls who are thinking about quitting something?

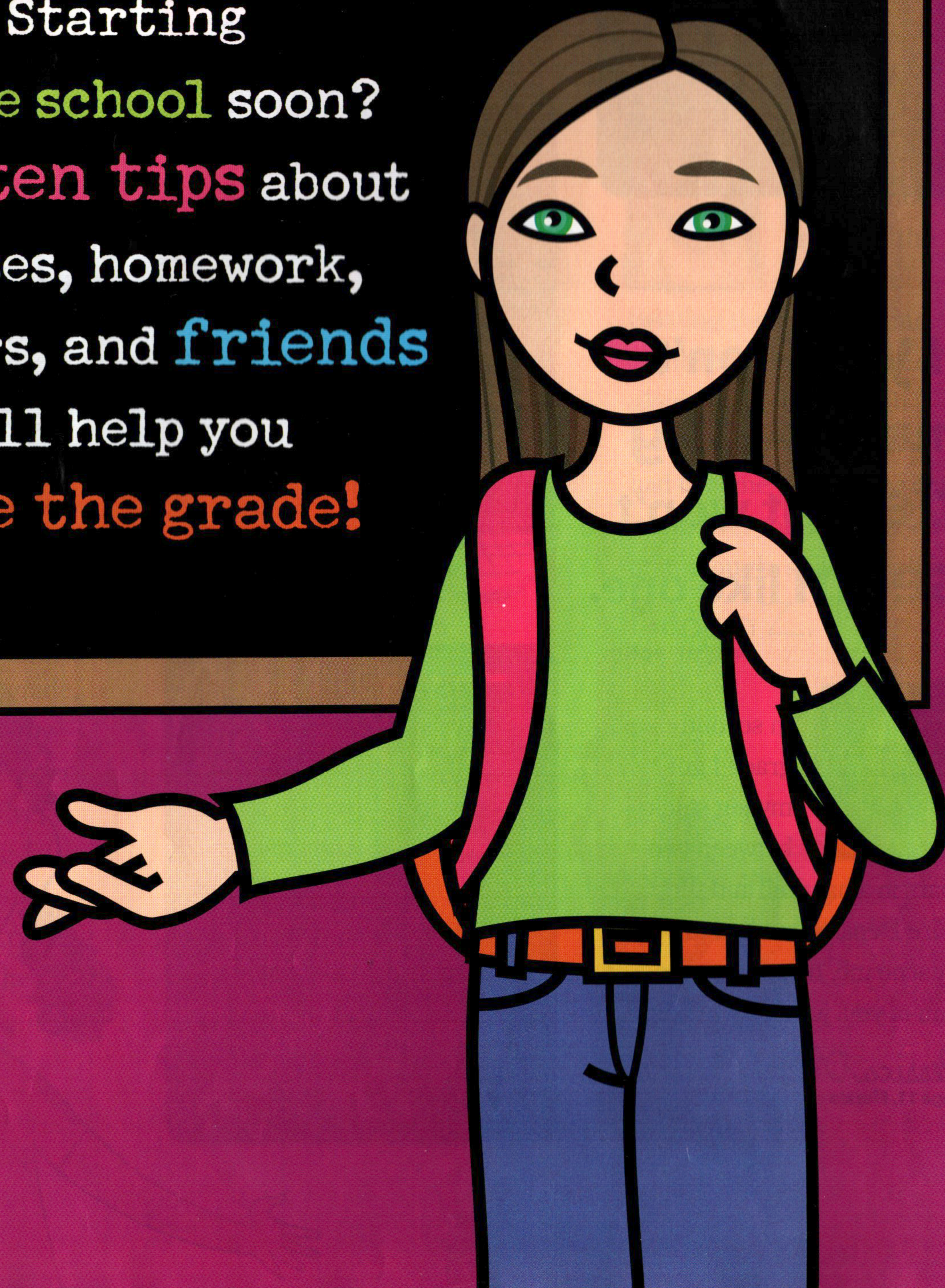
Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to the address on page 2. Deadline: October 7, 2004. Some answers will appear in the March/April 2005 issue. ★



A Fresh Start

by Julie Williams

Starting
middle school soon?
These **ten tips** about
classes, homework,
teachers, and **friends**
will help you
make the grade!



1. Get ready to get up early.

Your middle school day might start earlier than the elementary school day. Make busy school days easier by **sticking to a basic routine** the night before. Think about what you're going to wear, pack your lunch and backpack, and ask Mom or Dad to sign any papers for school. Preparing the night before will help you beat the morning rush hour, *and* you may get to catch some extra ZZZs.



2. Get to know your teachers.

In elementary school you might have had just one or two teachers that you spent all day with and became close to. Now you might have a different teacher for every class. You'll want to get to know each one.

Teachers want to know what you think.

Be sure to pick the right time to tell them, like during a class discussion. Ask for help on assignments when you need it—your teachers want you to do well.

Illustrations: Angela Martini



3. Pick your classes based on your interests.

Beyond the basics of English, science, and math, you may get to choose one or two other courses to take, such as a foreign language, band, or art.

To learn more about the different classes, ask your new school for a course description book. Feel free to **ask teachers** or older students any questions you may have. Don't create your schedule based on what your friends are taking. Pick the courses that interest **you** most.



Sharpen up! With one pencil, you can draw a line 35 miles long.

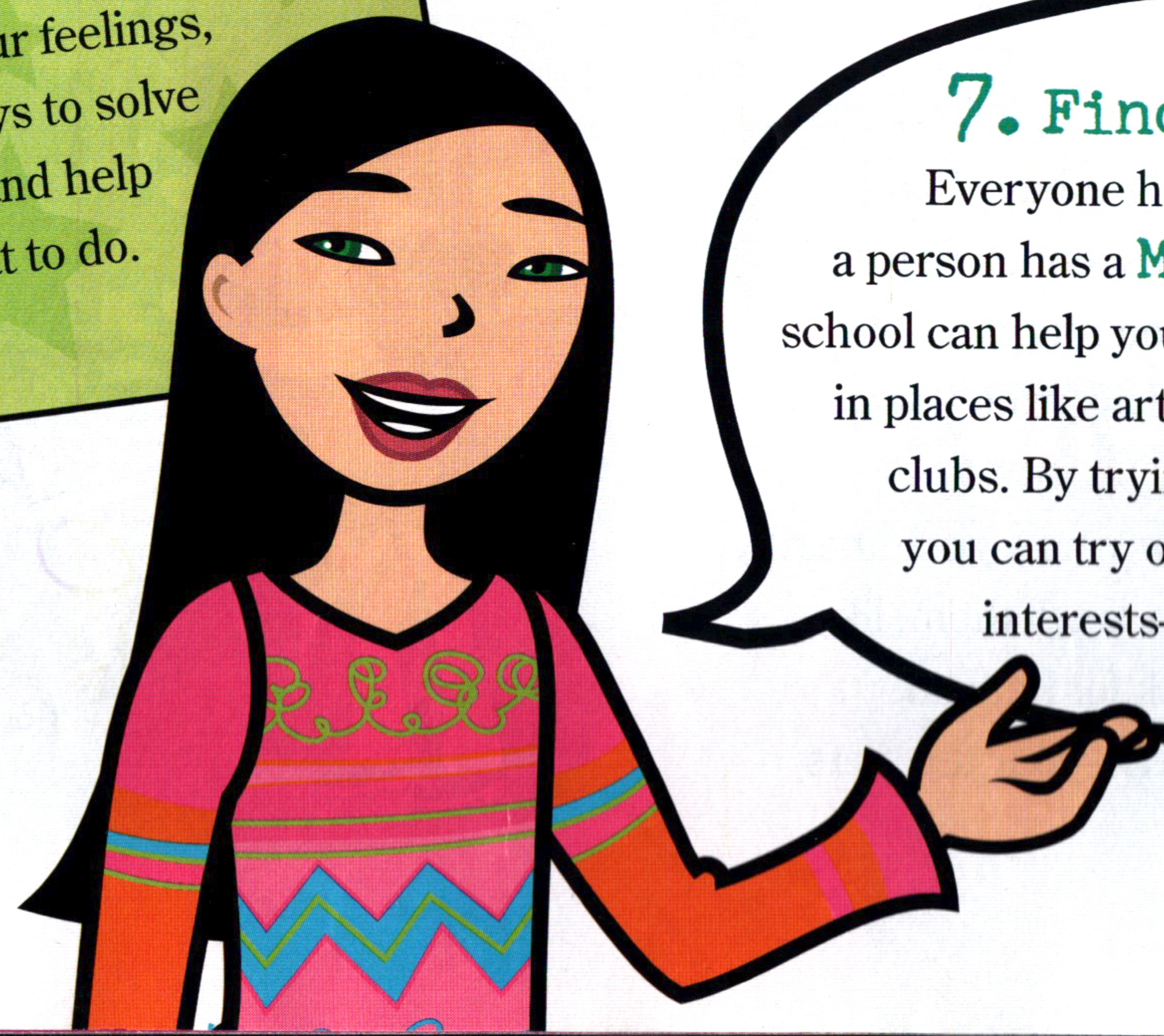


4. Keep your locker combination in your pocket.

At school, you'll be assigned a numbered locker to store your coat, books, and school supplies in. It's a good idea to **write down** your locker combination and keep it in a secret place until you know it by heart. If you have trouble opening your locker, someone in the main office should be able to help you during lunch or after school.

5. Ask for help.

If you're having any trouble adjusting to the pressures of middle school, you can—and should—ask for help. Your school counselor **will listen** to your problem, help you sort through your feelings, explore new ways to solve your problem, and help you decide what to do.



6. Study smarter.

If you do your homework, you'll do better in school. The trick is to make your homework work for you.

If you get an assignment that's a big snore, find a way to make it **more interesting**. Pretend you're a contestant on a history game show. Imagine you're an actress trying out for a part in your English assignment. Use your imagination and turn your work into play.



7. Find your passion.

Everyone has a *passion*—something a person has a **MAJOR** interest in. Middle school can help you find your potential passions in places like art clubs, sports, or academic clubs. By trying out different groups, you can try out all kinds of different interests—and people—too!

8. Schedule yourself.

So much to do, but so little time to do it in. Homework and after-school activities can take a big chunk out of your day. Pick up where your school schedule leaves off and plan what you have to do after school. Don't forget to include homework!



There's a fine line between **being active and being over-committed**. Make sure you're allowing yourself time for schoolwork, after-school activities, *and* fun.



9. Picture yourself having a good time.

Positive visualization is a trick that professional athletes use all the time. If you want to succeed in a given situation, you have to want it, feel it, and see it. If you tell yourself **you can do it**, you've taken the first step toward making it a reality.

Think back to times in your life when you successfully navigated new situations. Then remind yourself, "I CAN do this!"

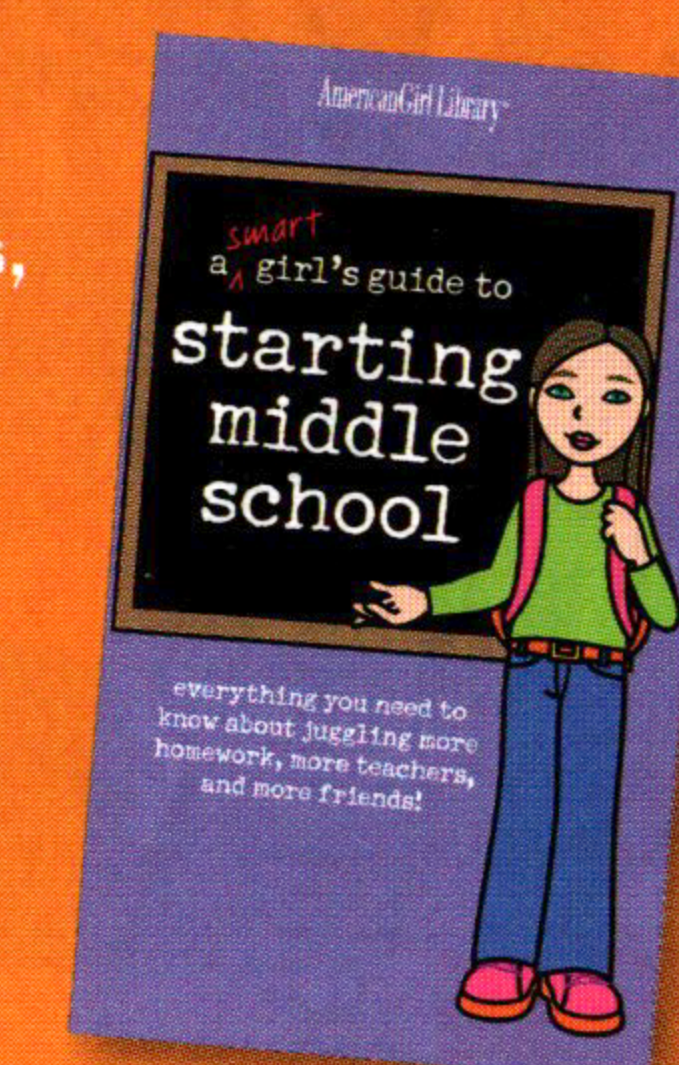


10. Make new friends.

In middle school, your old friends from elementary school may still be your best friends. But you will also have the opportunity to find new friends.

The **best friends** for you are girls who allow you to be yourself and who make you **feel good** about yourself. They may or may not be the girls you played with in elementary school. In the end, your friends will likely be a blend of old and new friends who share your interests and will make middle school that much more fun! ★

For more great tips, check out *A Smart Girl's Guide to Starting Middle School*, available at bookstores.



Top Your Waffles

These delicious combos are great for breakfast or an afternoon snack!



Indoor S'mores

Spread marshmallow creme on a waffle. Add chocolate chips and graham cereal.



Berry Bonanza

Spread a small spoonful of strawberry cream cheese onto a waffle. Top with berries.



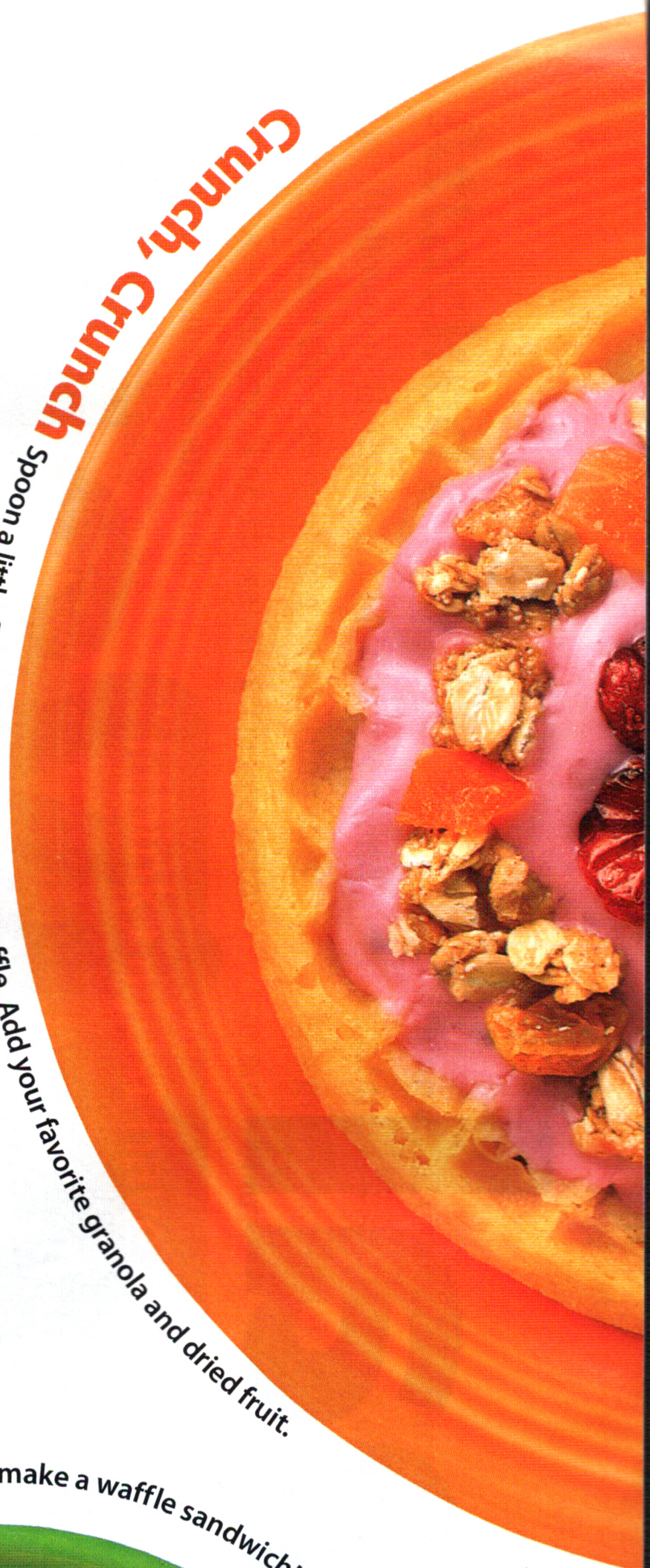
Monkeyin' Around

Scoop chocolate pudding onto a waffle. Add banana slices and sprinkles.



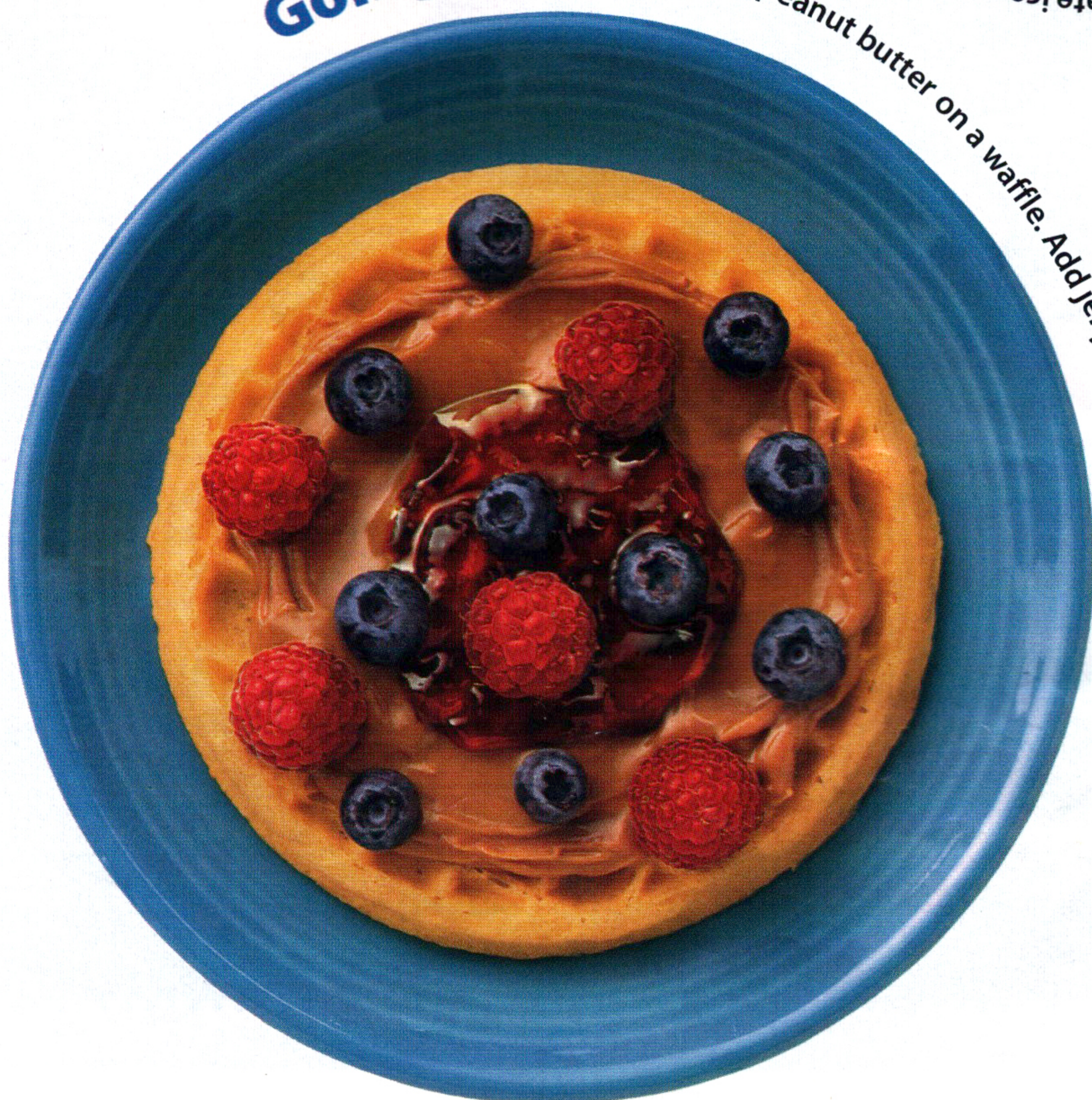
Sundae Supreme

Spread a thin layer of peanut butter on a waffle. Add a small scoop of chocolate ice cream. Top with chocolate syrup, whipped cream, nuts, and a cherry!




Crunch, Crunch

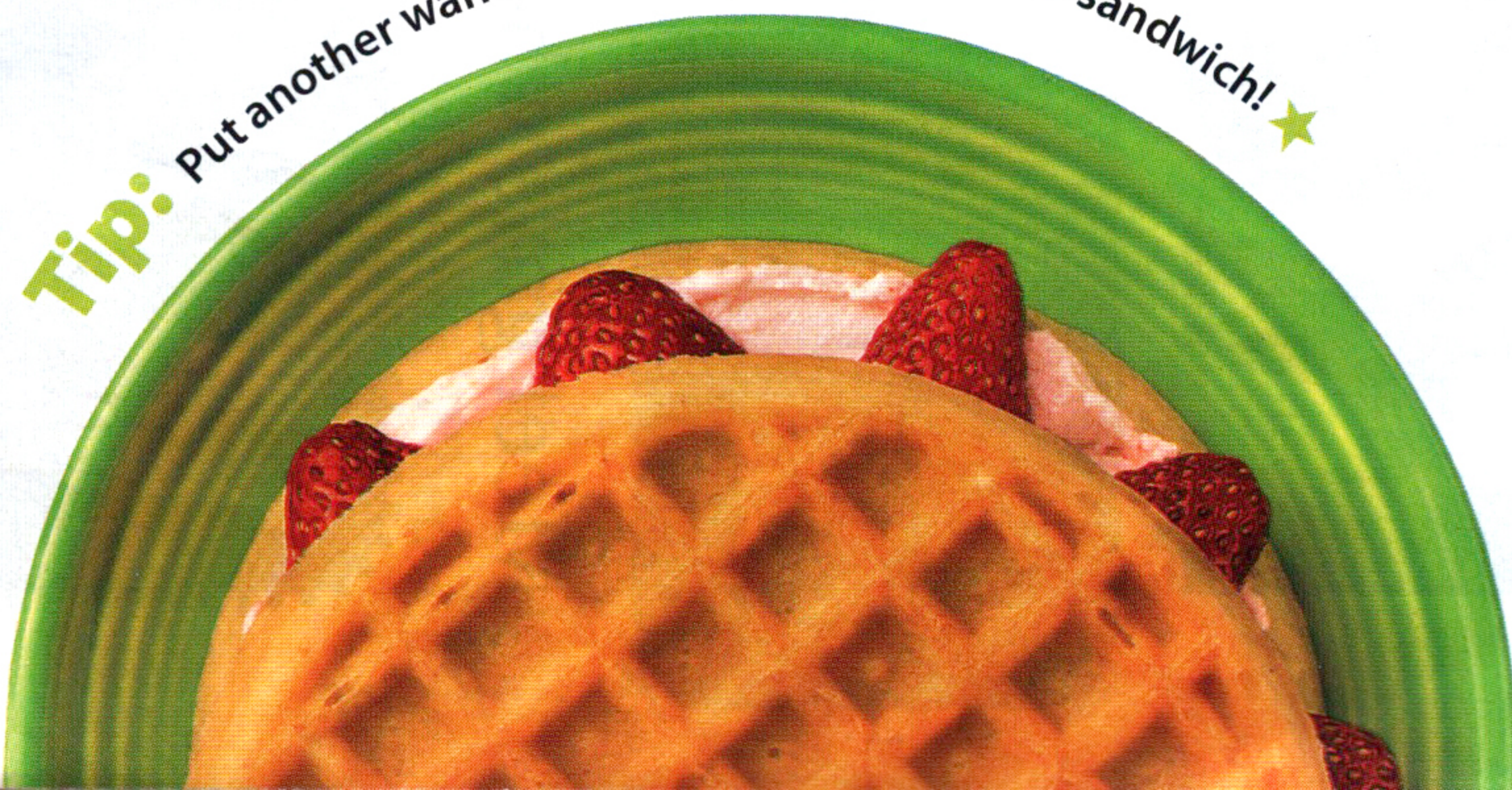
Spoon a little flavored yogurt onto a waffle. Add your favorite granola and dried fruit.



Going Nutty

Spread peanut butter on a waffle. Add jelly and fresh berries.

Tip: Put another waffle on top and make a waffle sandwich! 



Real Survivors

Meet girls who made it through very scary situations.



Attacked

Last Halloween, Bethany H., 14, and her friend Alana started the day by doing something they both love—surfing. The Hawaiian girls are both competitive surfers and had gone to the beach early in the morning. After surfing for about half an hour, Bethany was lying on her board, paddling out to catch a wave, when a shark suddenly attacked her left arm and bit it off just below the shoulder.

Alana's dad rushed Bethany to the hospital, where she had surgery. "When I woke up," Bethany says, "the doctor said I was stable. He also said I'd need a blood transfusion." After the attack, Bethany had lost more than half of the blood in her body. But because Bethany was an athlete, she was strong enough to survive.

Bethany had to learn to adapt to life with just one arm, and she knew she wanted to surf again as soon as she could. Just three weeks after the attack, she was back in the water. Learning how to go from lying on the board to standing on it was the trickiest part. "I got up on my third wave, and I didn't get any help from anyone," Bethany says. "It made me happy."

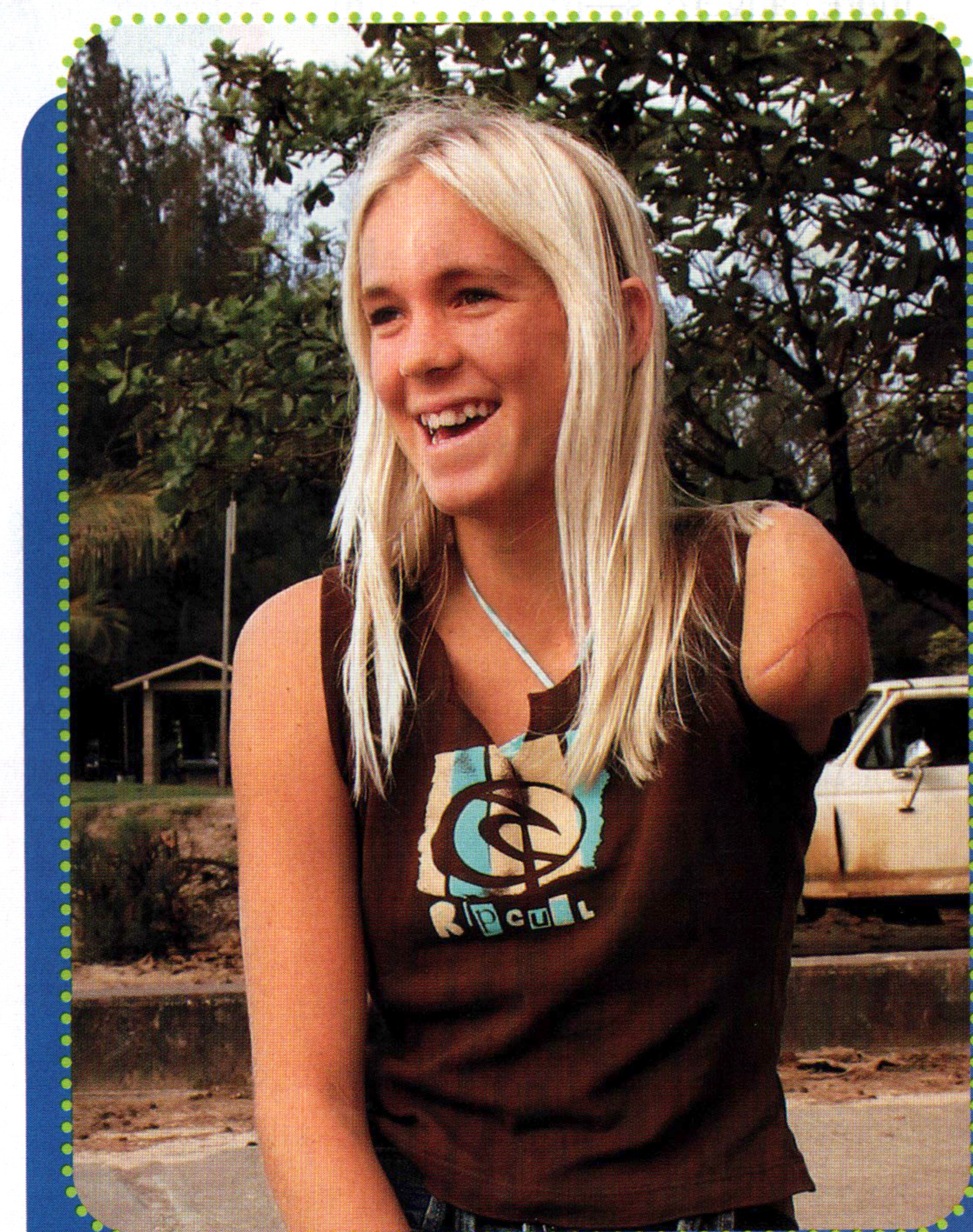
That was only the beginning. Less than three months after the attack, Bethany competed in a surfing tournament—and won fifth place! "Usually I'm more aggressive," she says, but at that competition, "I was slower. I had to work harder, surf smarter." Bethany used a bigger board for that competition, but when the officials offered to let her have more time between heats, she refused. She wanted to compete the way she always has.

Losing her arm hasn't made Bethany afraid to try new things. "I think I'll just have to do every-

thing differently, but I think it'll be pretty seldom that there's something I can't do," she says. She has gone horseback riding and has even learned to snowboard!

"I think I'll just have to do everything **differently**, but I think it'll be pretty seldom that there's something I can't do."

Bethany is getting used to using an artificial arm, but she doesn't wear it when she surfs. When she thinks about losing her arm, "I'm not really mad or scared, but I'm bummed sometimes," she says. "I know that God has a plan for me, and I just gotta put my trust in Him."



Bethany plans to keep doing what she loves best—surfing.

Photos: Noah Hamilton

Lost

Little did Ariel L. and Maya P. know that a short hiking trail would lead to a long, scary night in the woods. The girls were returning from a camping trip in Alaska when their carpool stopped to walk a half-mile trail off the side of the road. Ariel, 14, Maya, 13, and three friends ran ahead of the adults on the trail.

The five friends soon got to a fork in the path and looked to a trail map for direction. However, they didn't realize that they misread the map. The young hikers were now headed on a much longer—and more dangerous—trail.

Soon the sky grew dark and the kids realized they were lost. "We started freaking out," recalls Maya. "We had a cell phone and called 911. But the phone was out of range."

With no flashlights, the kids used the light from the cell phone to try to see. But the trail was slick and icy, and the small light didn't help much.

"We were going over little bridges that were rotten. And right below us was rushing cold water," says Ariel.

"I take life more **seriously** now that I've come so close to losing it."

Not only was it dark, but the temperature was below freezing. Each person had only a light fleece jacket to keep warm. Maya says the bitter cold made it difficult to move. "Our fingers got stiff. It

hurt to walk, because you couldn't feel your toes."

After two hours of crossing treacherous ground, everyone was exhausted. They sat down and huddled together to keep warm. Three hours later, they heard the voices of rescuers calling to them.

"We started hugging each other and crying," remembers Ariel. The rescuers gave the cold kids their heavy coats. "Their coats were so warm, it was like going in a sauna," says Maya.

The friends were soon reunited with their families. "When I looked into my mom's eyes, I started crying," says Maya, who is still haunted by their ordeal. "I take life more seriously now that I've come so close to losing it. I have more fun, give people more hugs, and do what's important to me!"



Maya and Ariel sit on the trail where they were lost.

Photo: Mark Kelley

Destroyed

If Lena J. could go back to the night she had to leave her home, she would pack much more. Last November, the California girl's family awoke to fire officials shouting through bullhorns, ordering residents to flee. Wildfires were heading their way.

Lena, 10, packed clothes and stuffed animals into two small bags. Then she, her parents, her two brothers, and their dog headed to the evacuation shelter, leaving everything else behind. "I wasn't super scared, because I thought I would be back," says Lena.

A few days later, Lena couldn't believe her eyes when she saw the news. "We saw our house burning on television. We recognized my bedroom window and our wraparound deck. I was really upset. I got nervous and stressed out, because I realized every-

thing I had left behind was destroyed—all of my clothes, my CDs, and my dollhouse. These were special things I felt couldn't be replaced."

"I've been **O.K.**, even though I lost almost everything."

Lena's family turned to each other for comfort. "My parents said to keep my hope up, that things were going to be all right. I kept thinking we're really lucky that everyone in my family was O.K."

While Lena's family searches for a new house, they are staying in a home with just one bedroom. "I miss having more space," explains Lena. "But I've learned to tell myself that even if something bad happens, don't worry. I've been O.K., even though I lost almost everything." ★



Lena leans against a chimney, the only part of her house that still stands.

Photo: Eduardo Cetrinblum

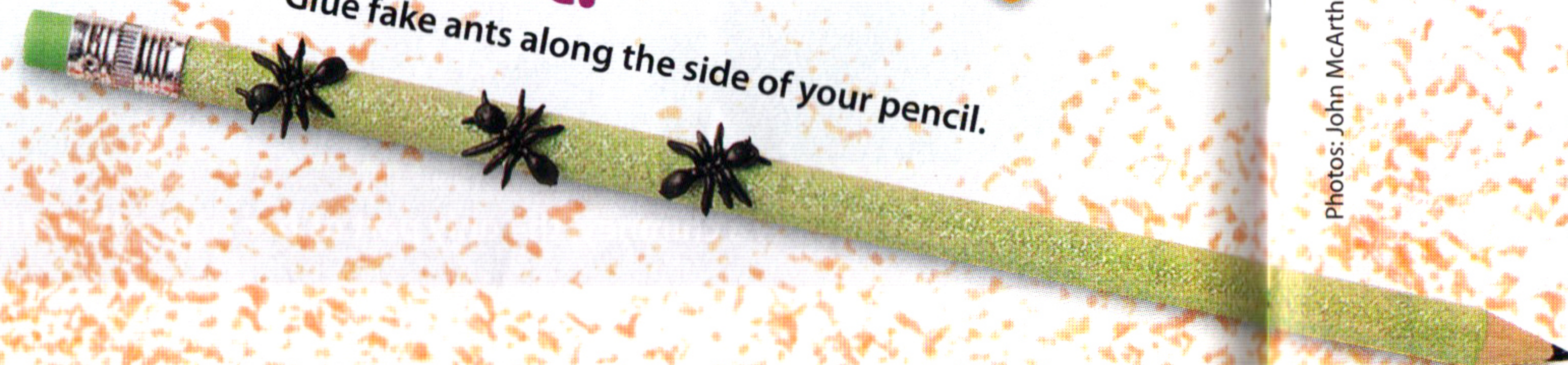


Eye Spy

Creep out your friends with this little trick! Paint your nails and let dry. Use nail glue (available at discount stores) to attach google eyes to your nails.

Antastic!

Glue fake ants along the side of your pencil.



Trick or Treat?

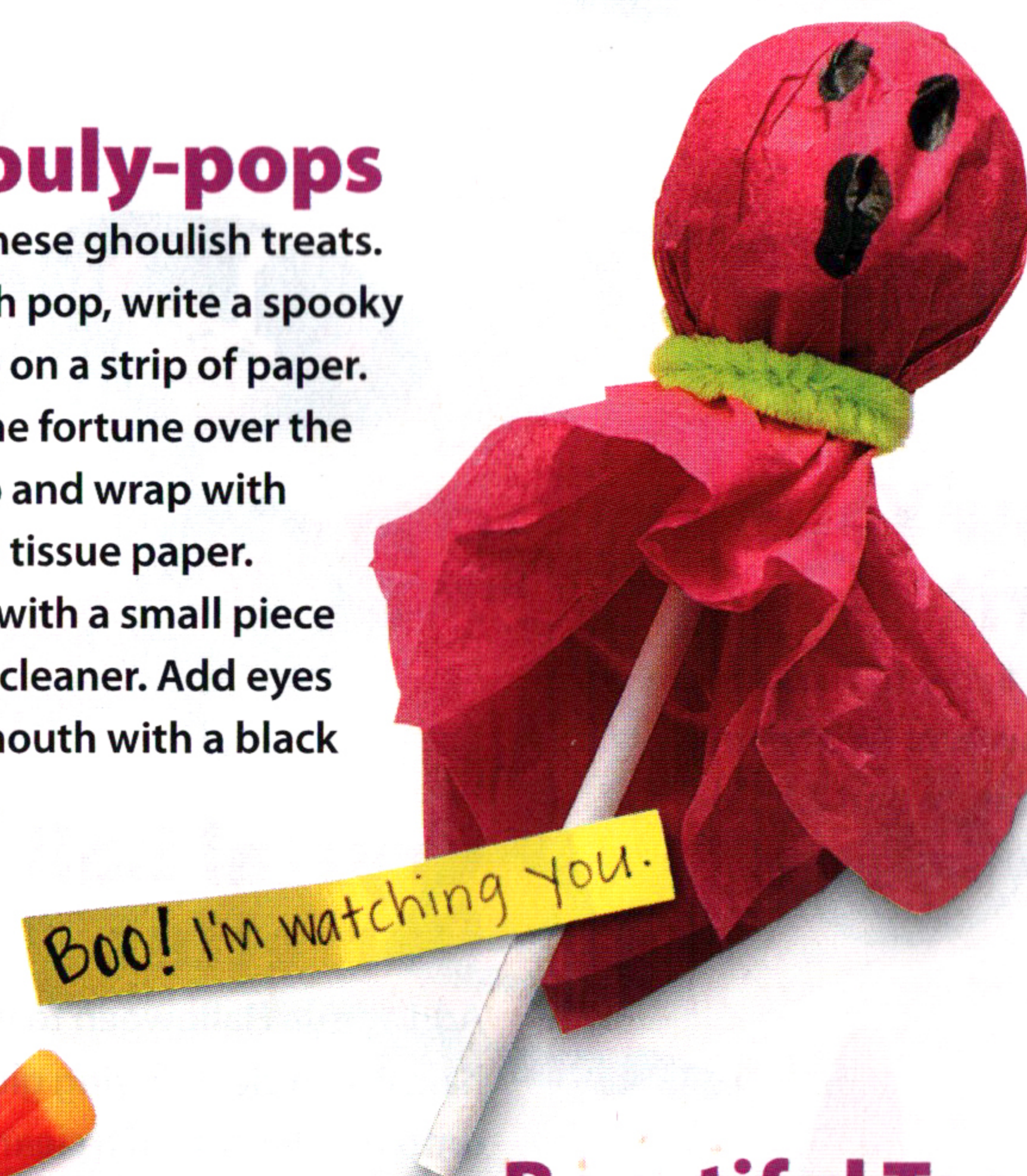
This dessert is definitely a treat! In a small glass, layer crushed chocolate cookies, whipped cream, and orange sherbet. Top with sprinkles.

Evil Eyes

Serve these creepy cookies to your classmates. Remove the top from a chocolate sandwich cookie and put a gummy Lifesaver on top. Add a mini M&M for the pupil. Use red gel icing to create bloodshot eyes.

Ghouly-pops

Make these ghoulish treats. For each pop, write a spooky fortune on a strip of paper. Place the fortune over the lollipop and wrap with colored tissue paper. Secure with a small piece of pipe cleaner. Add eyes and a mouth with a black marker.



Boo-tiful Tee

Get into the spirit of Halloween. Put a piece of wax paper inside a freshly washed plain cotton T-shirt. Arrange rhinestones in desired design. Use jewel glue to attach rhinestones. Let dry.



Photos: John McArthur, Mike Walker Styling: Andree McArthur, Stephanie Shoemaker, Cindy Stutzel Illustrations: Lynn Gesue

Ghoulish Glow

Light the night with these spooky votives. To make the ghosts, lay a piece of waxed paper on your work surface. Draw the shape of a ghost with white glitter glue. Fill in the shape with the glue. Add two beads for eyes. Let dry completely and peel off of waxed paper. To make the votive, wrap double-sided tape around the outside of the glass. Roll in seed beads. Glue on ghosts.



Wrap It Up

Give your 'do Halloween sparkle. Thread beads on a pipe cleaner and wrap around your hair.



Caught in a Web

Create a haunted house by wrapping white string around picture frames in

every room. Add fake flies and spiders to creep out your little brother!



Show Your Spirit

Devote a day to the colors of Halloween. Wear everything orange and black—the crazier the better!



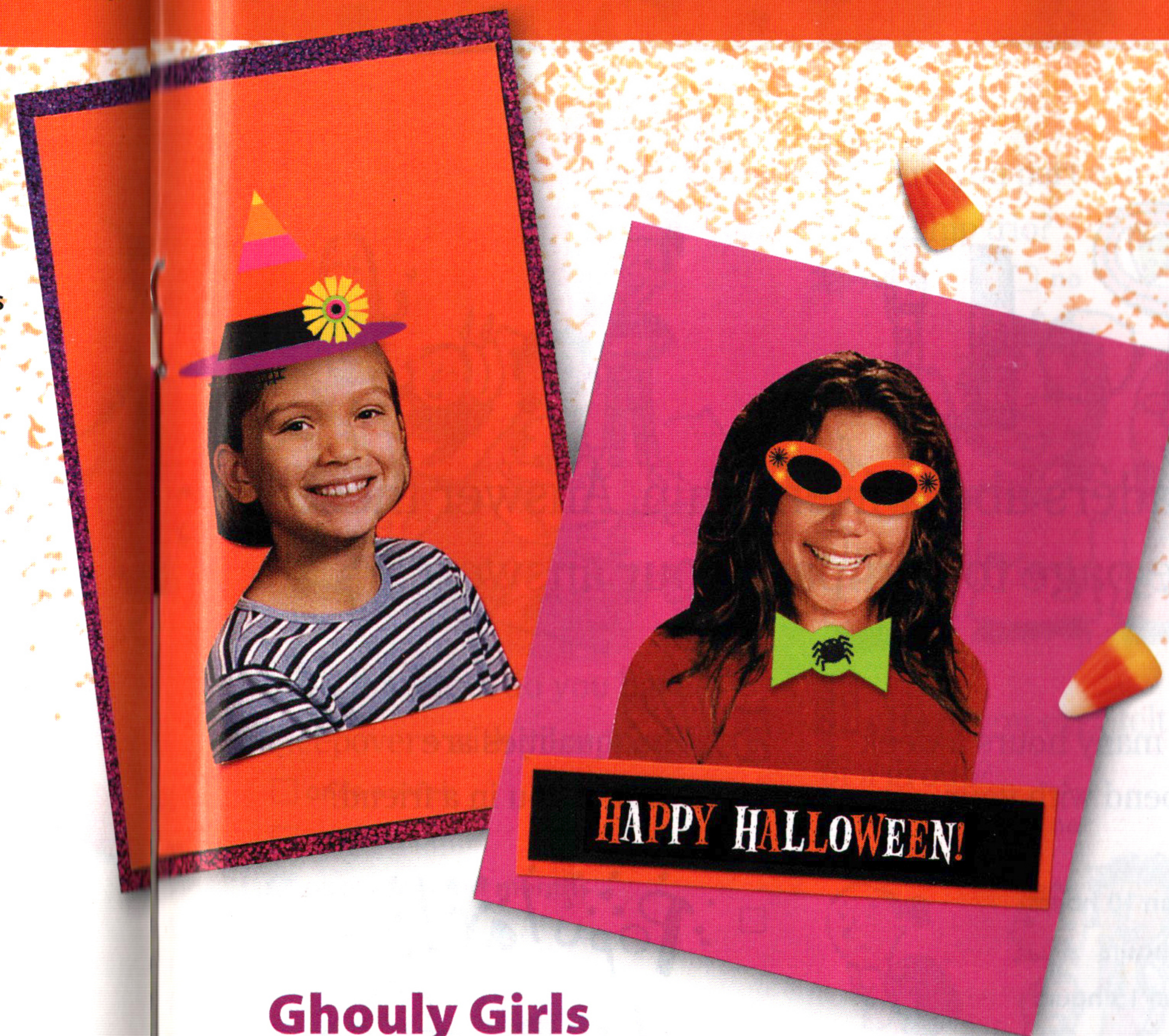
Crystal Ball Barrettes

Add a little Halloween to your hair. Brush clear-drying glue onto the flat side of a clear glass stone (available at craft stores). Place the stone on a piece of Halloween scrapbook paper. Let dry. Cut paper around stone. Glue the stone onto a plain barrette. For extra sparkle, add some rhinestones. Clip in your hair and say "Boo!"

Ghouly Girls

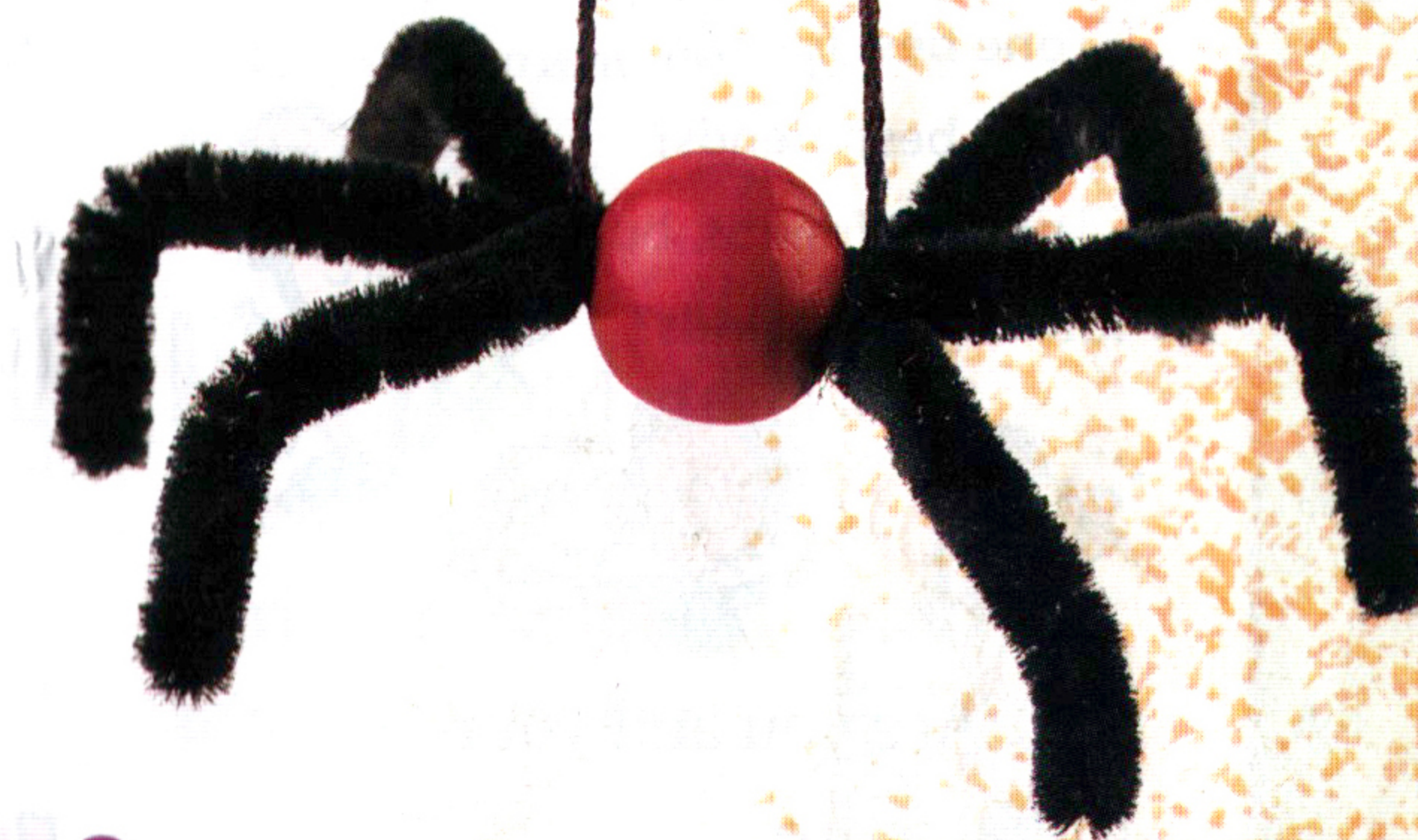
Send Halloween greetings to your friends. Glue a photo of you or your friend onto a

small card. Add a little humor with AG's Halloween stickers!



Hang in There

Make this funky decoration. Thread 3 pieces of black pipe cleaner through a large wooden bead. Pull the pipe cleaners apart and bend to make the creature's legs. Use thread to hang the creepy creatures from your bedroom door handle or in your locker.



Boo Who?

Start a new Halloween tradition—Secret Spirits! Put friends' names on slips of paper and have everyone pull a name out of a bag. As a Secret Spirit, you must give your person small treats (and maybe tricks) every day for a week. Happy Halloween! ★



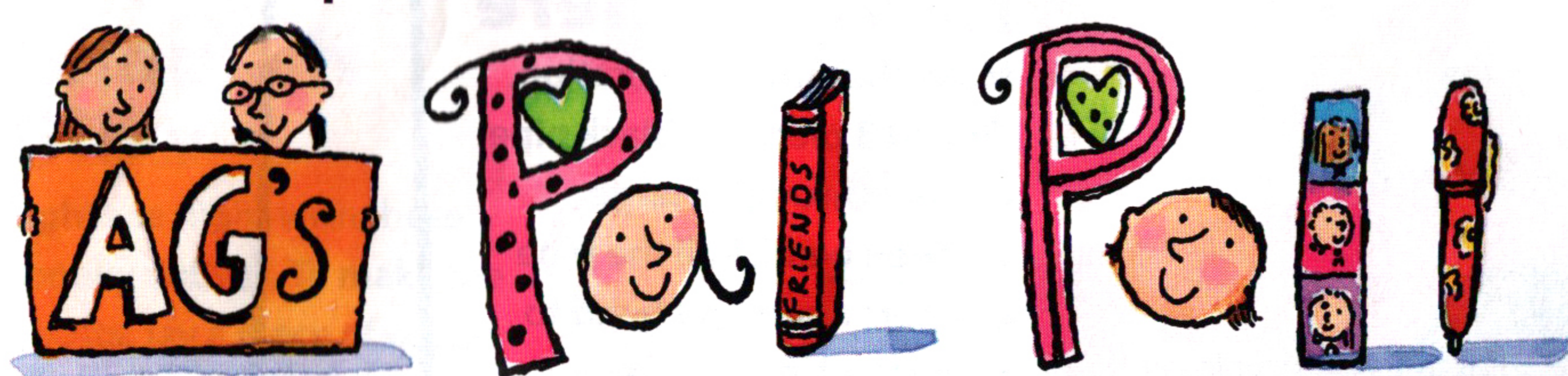
Spin a Web

Make these creepy crawly cupcakes. Spread white frosting onto cupcakes. Use gel icing in a tube to draw several rings on each cupcake. Drag

a toothpick at 8 equally spaced points to make the rings into a web as shown. Top with a fake spider.



Friendship Matters



A new department all about friendship!

We asked hundreds of our readers about friendship. Answer these quick questions, then turn the page to compare your answers!

1. Do you have

- ☐ one best friend?
- ☒ two best friends?
- ☐ no best friends, but lots of good friends?



2. Are you and your best friend more...
☒ alike?

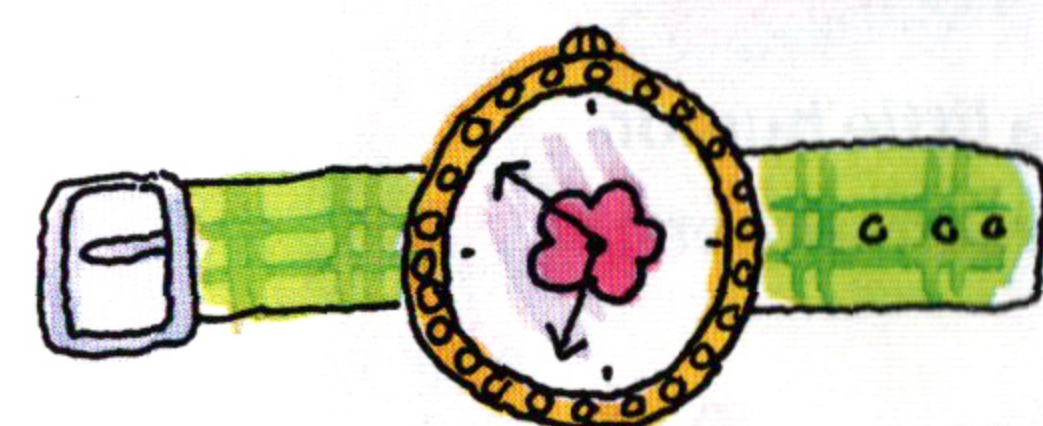


☐ opposite?



3. How many hours a week do you spend with your friends?

- ☒ fewer than 10 hours
- ☐ 10 to 15 hours
- ☐ more than 15 hours



4. Which of these do you share with your friends?

- ☐ clothes
- ☐ CDs
- ☒ American Girl magazine
- ☐ books
- ☐ dolls
- ☒ lunch
- ☐ none of these

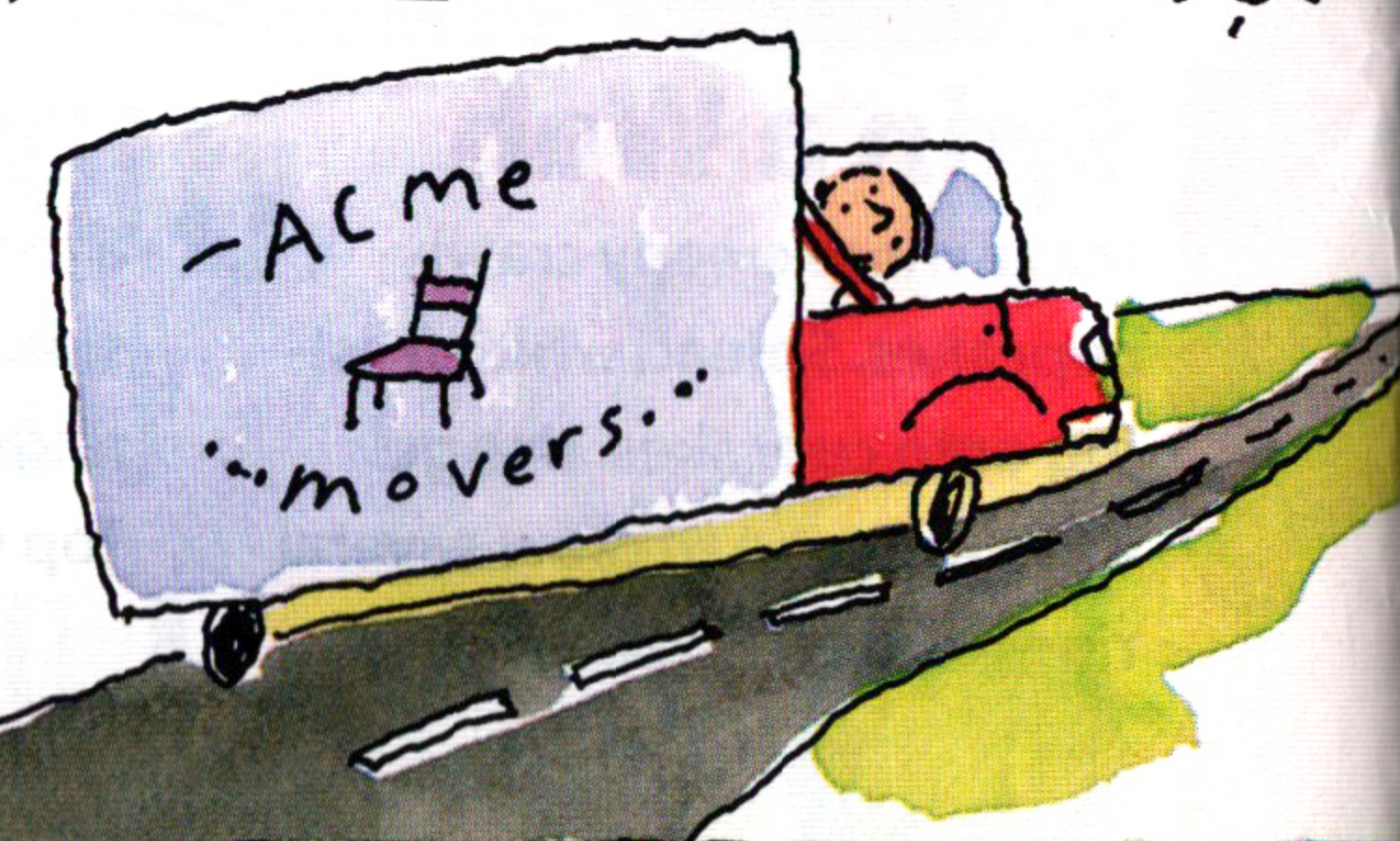


5. What qualities are important to you in a friend?

- ☐ Popular!
- ☐ Attractive
- ☒ Kind
- ☒ FUNNY
- ☒ CREATIVE
- ☐ RICH

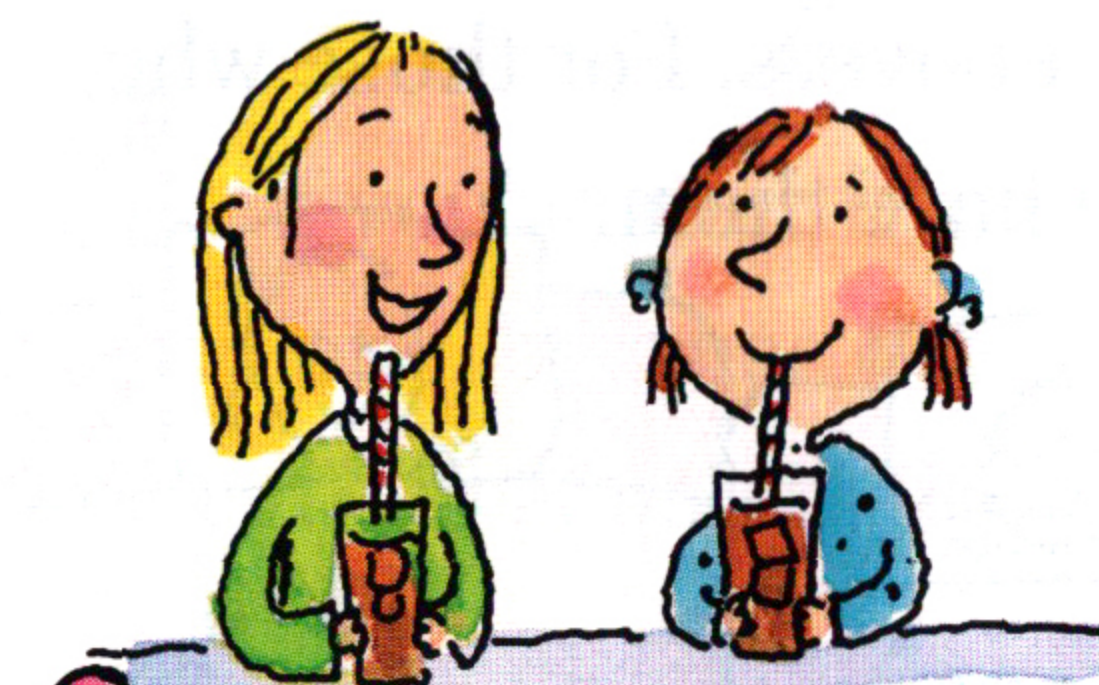
6. Have you ever had a friend move away?

- ☒ yes
- ☐ no



7. How often do you have sleepovers with your friends?

- ☐ once a week
- ☐ once a month
- ☒ once every few months
- ☐ never



8. Do you have a friend who is...

- ☐ two years or more older than you?
- ☒ two years or more younger than you?
- ☒ neither of the above?



9. Do your parents like your friends?

- ☒ They like all of my friends.
- ☐ They like most of my friends.
- ☐ They usually do not like my friends.
- ☐ They do not like any of my friends.

10. Are you part of a friendship trio?

- ☒ yes
- ☐ no



11. Have you ever felt left out of a group?

- ☐ yes
- ☒ no



12. What do you and your friends gossip about?

- ☐ each other
- ☐ classmates
- ☐ family
- ☒ We do not gossip.



13. When was the last time you and your friend got into a fight?

- ☐ yesterday
- ☐ about a week ago
- ☐ about a month ago
- ☐ longer than a month ago
- ☒ We don't fight.

14. Why did you last get into a fight with a friend?

- ☒ misunderstanding
- ☐ other friends
- ☐ jealousy
- ☐ disagreement



15. Do you have a boy as a friend, who is not your "boyfriend"?

- ☒ yes
- ☐ no



16. Have you ever been jealous of your best friend?

- ☒ yes
- ☐ no

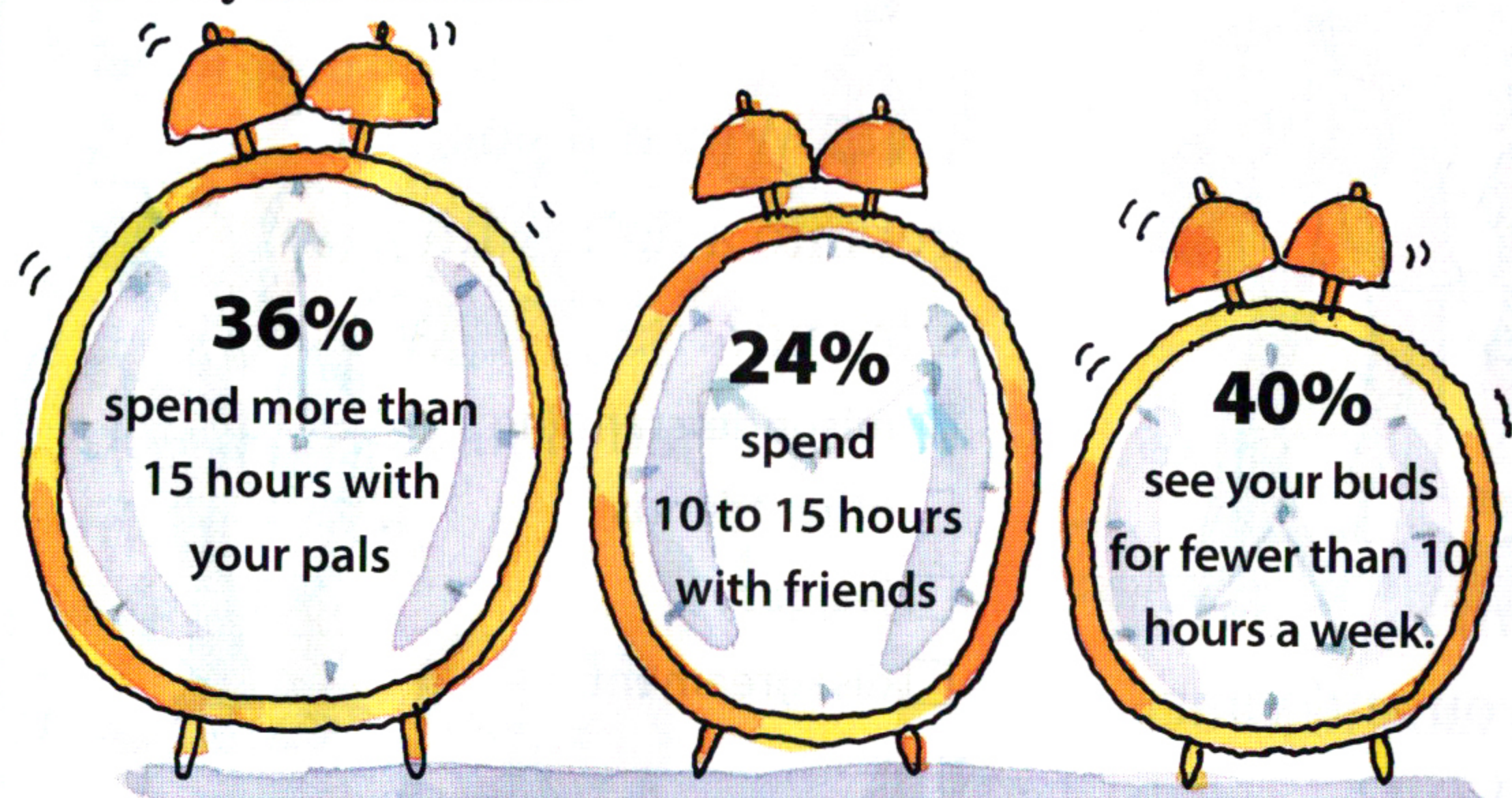


1. American girls love their friends! **73%** of you have one or two best friends.



2. It seems that AG readers and their friends have a lot in common. Only **25%** of you and your best friends are opposites.

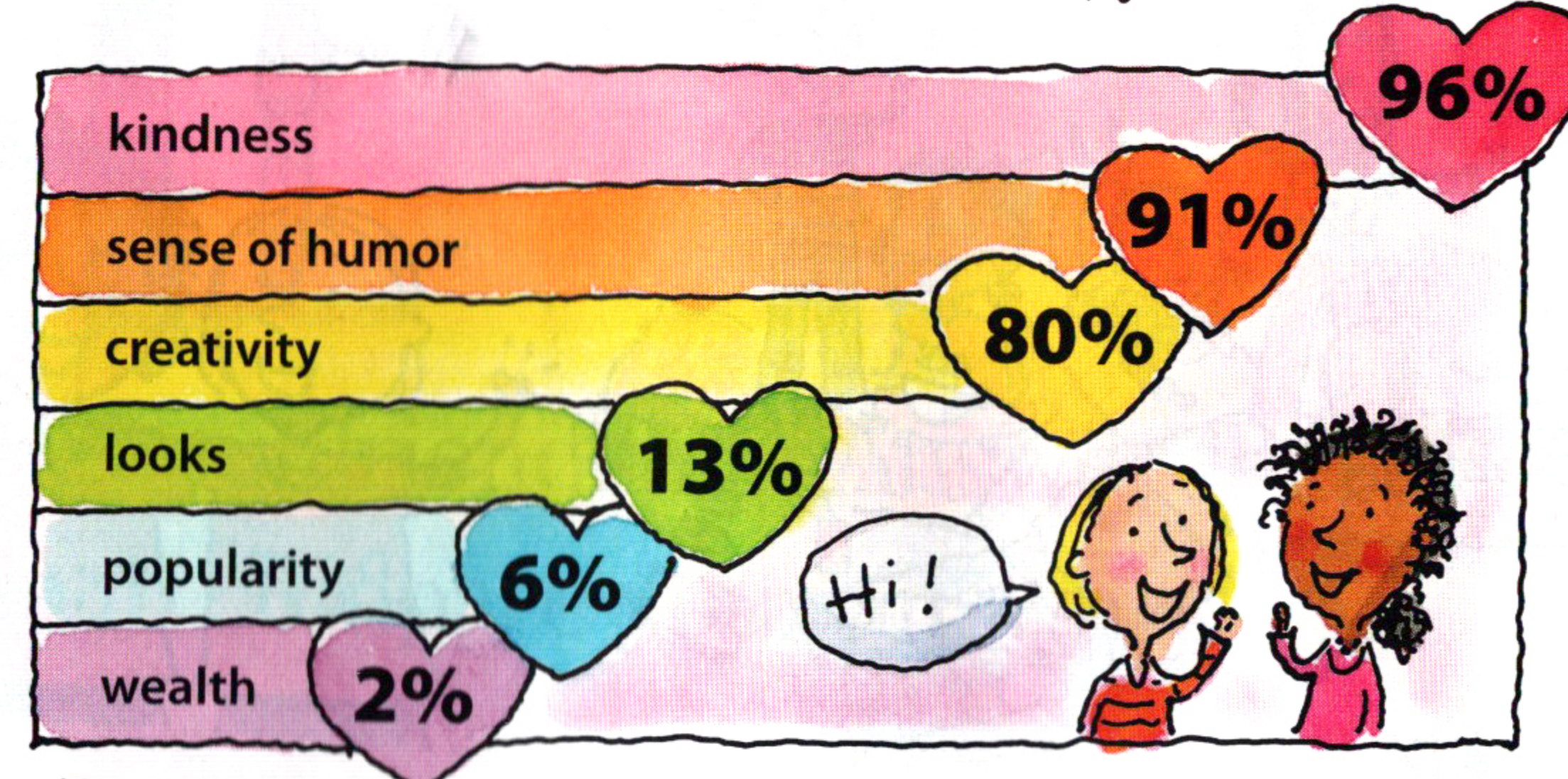
3. You and your friends are busy girls. Here's the breakdown of how much time you spend with your friends:



4. If sharing means caring, then you care a lot! Books and lunch made the top of the list of things you share.



5. It's what's on the inside that counts—especially kindness! When choosing the qualities that are important to you in a friend, you said:



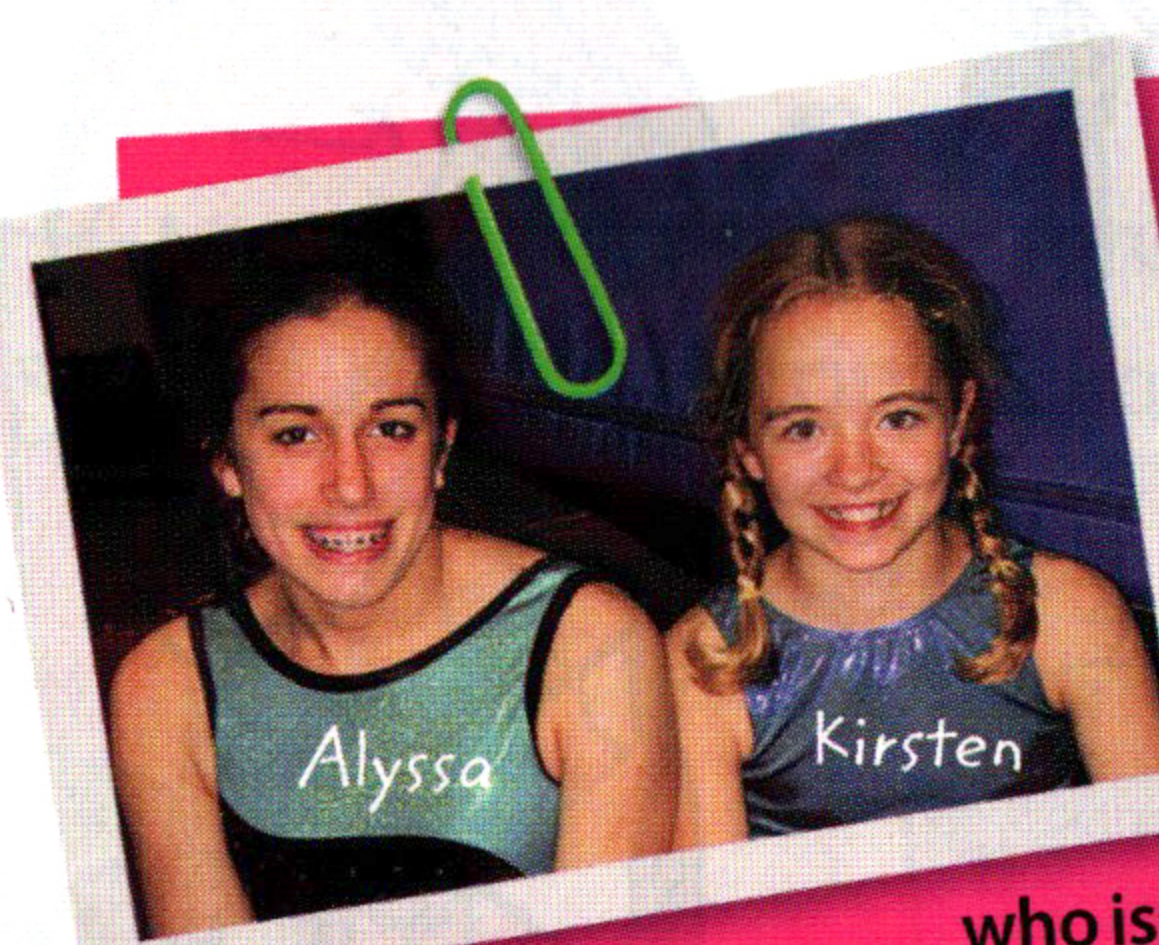
6. Thank goodness for e-mail, because **72%** of you have a friend who moved away.



7. There must be a lot of tired girls out there, because you love having sleepovers! Only **10%** of you don't have any sleepovers. For those who do, this is how often you have them:



8. Age is only a number. Over half of you have a friend who is two years older than you and half of you have a friend who is two years younger.



Alyssa H., Age 13

"Kirsten and I were in the same gymnastics group when we met. We became instant friends. I like having a friend

who is younger than me because

I don't have to act mature. We just laugh and goof around. It doesn't matter that we're two years apart or that I'm a girly-girl and Kirsten is a tomboy—our sense of humor is what makes our friendship great!"



share clothes with their friends, that means that 33 out of every 100 girls swap clothes.

9. Your parents must think you make good choices because **100%** of them like all or most of your friends!

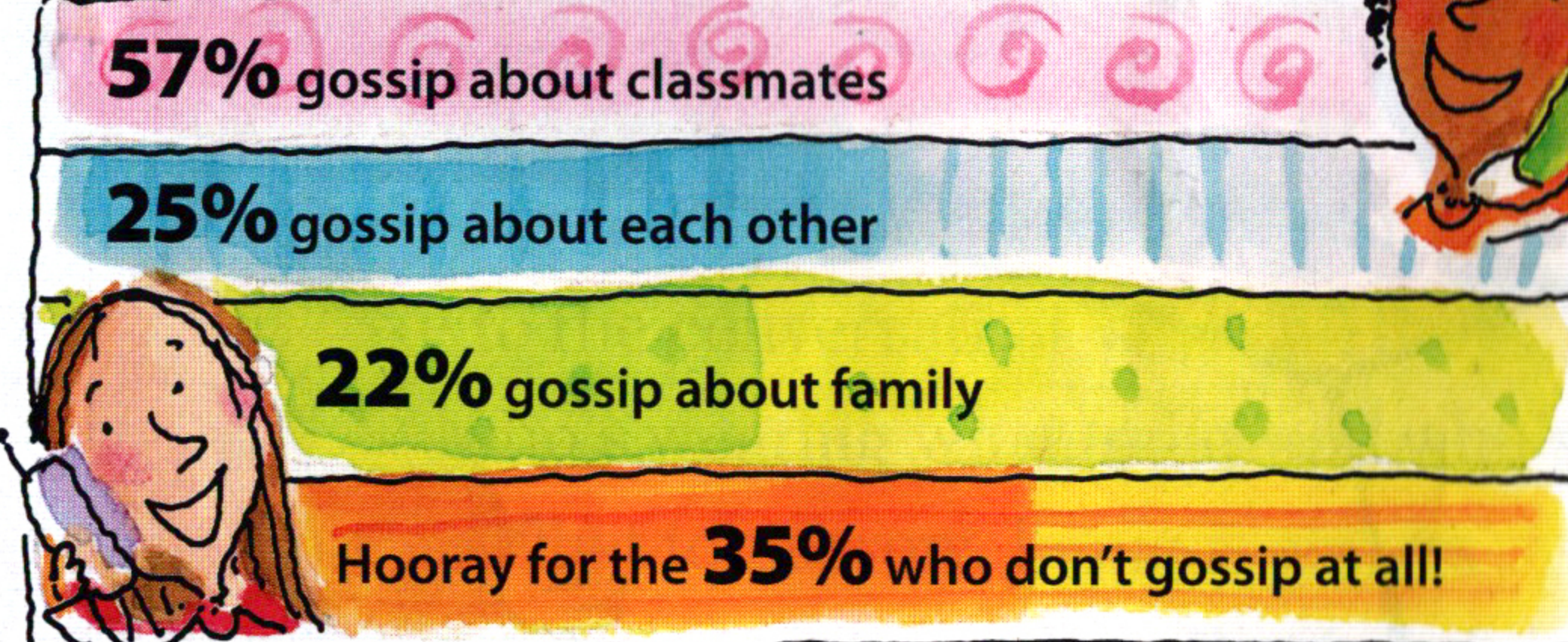


10. Three isn't a crowd when it comes to you and your friends. Almost **70%** of you are part of a friendship trio.



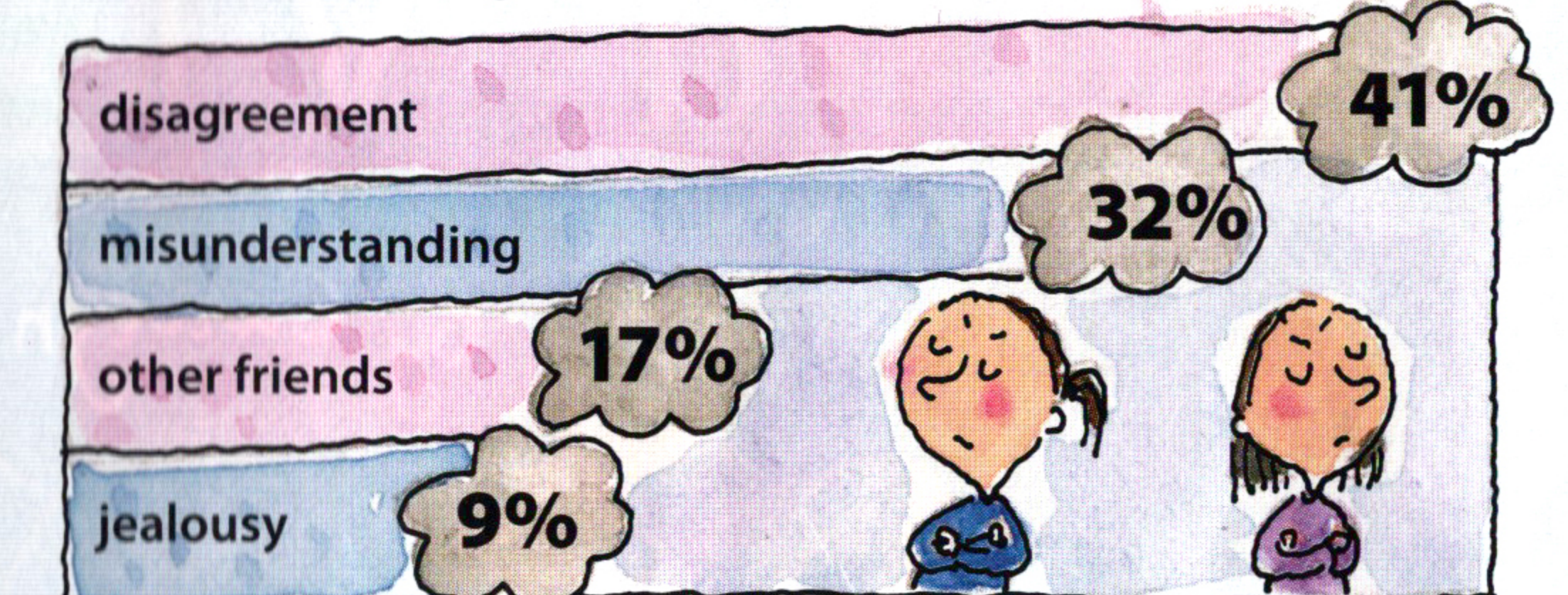
11. If you've ever felt left out of a group, you're not alone, because **84%** of you have felt left out of a group at one time or another.

12. When talking about gossip, here is what you like to chat about:

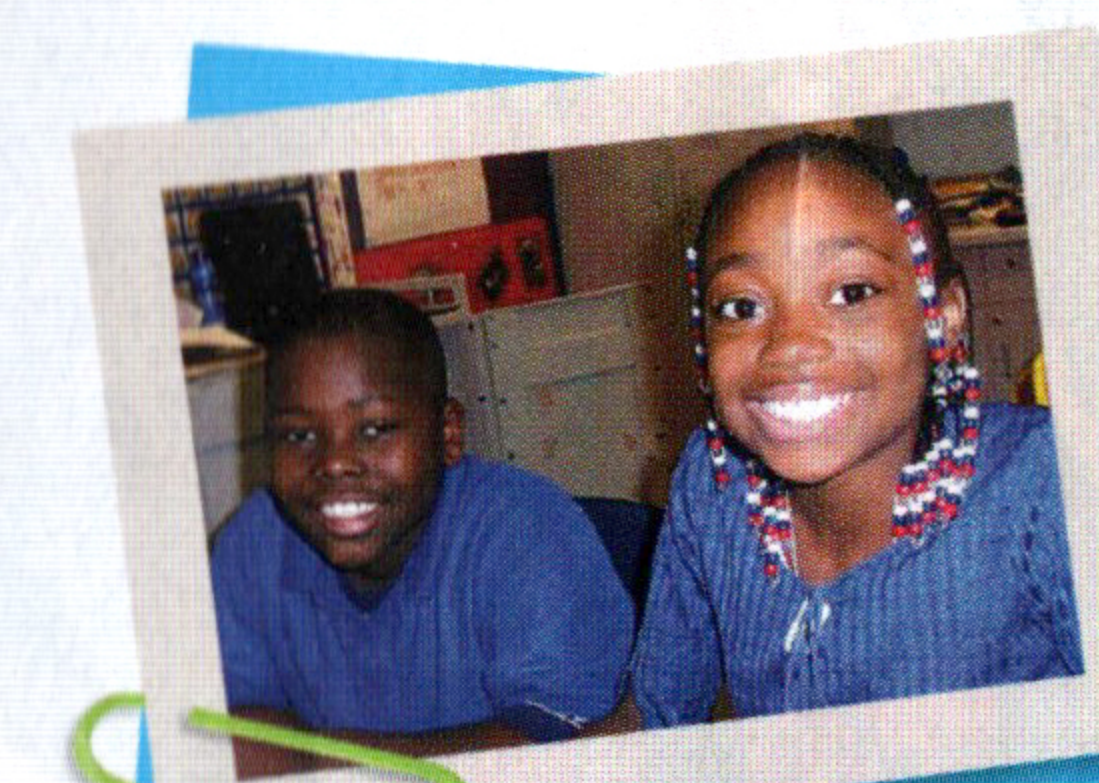


13. Friends fight sometimes. On average, **31%** of readers last fought with a friend more than a month ago while **29%** of you never fight. A small percentage of you—**18%**—fought within the last week. Only **16%** of you fought about a month ago.

14. For those of you who have gotten into a recent fight, it might have been caused by one of the following:



15. Boy, oh, boy—**77%** of you have a good friend who is a boy!



Nakeya N., age 10

"James is one of my good friends. Sometimes I get teased about having a boy as a friend, but I don't mind. We like to play

games outside, like basketball and tag. Having a boy as a friend is very different from having a girl as a friend. Boys are more active and like to play rough. I also have a lot of girl friends and enjoy spending time with them, too."

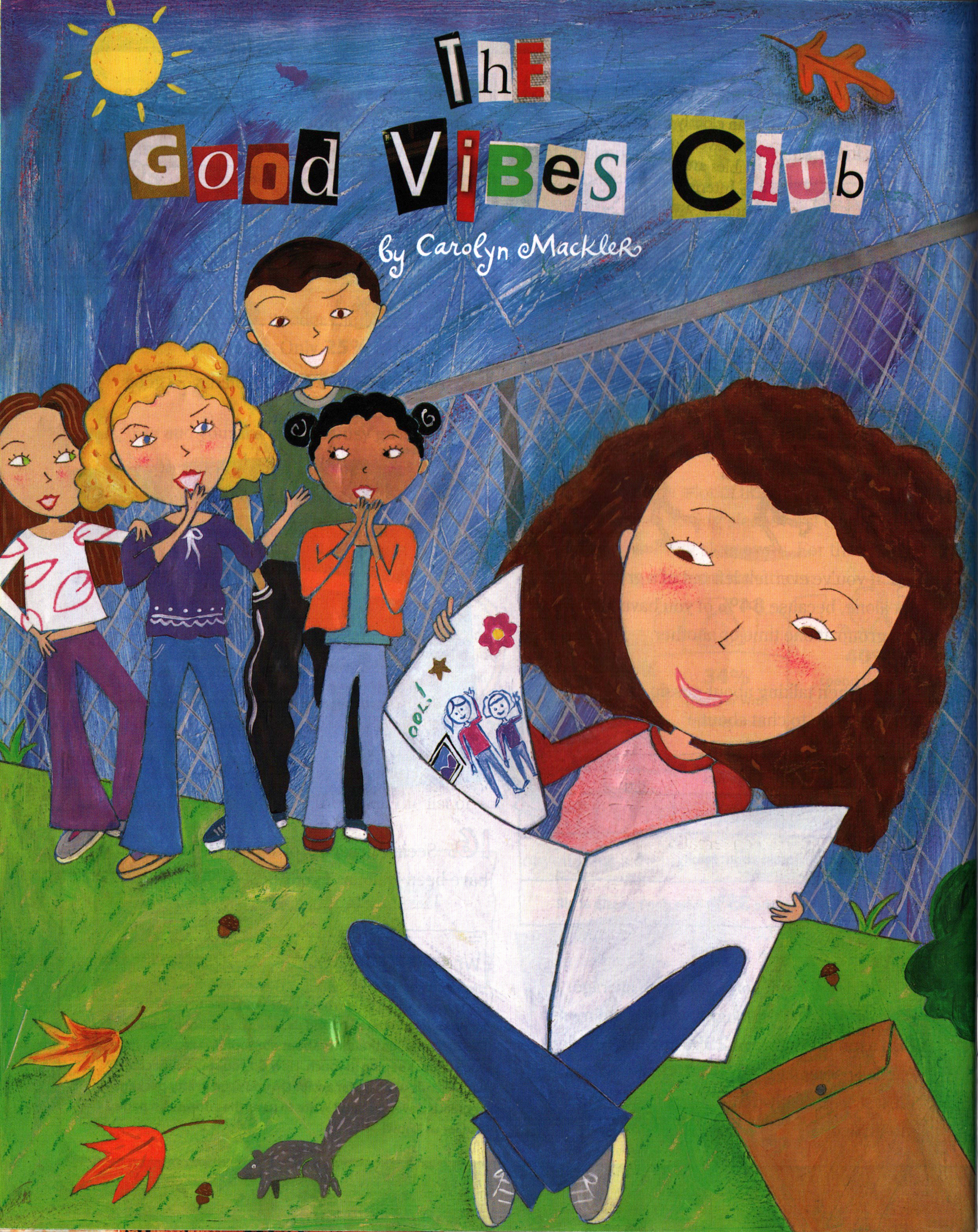


16. Seeing green? More than **70%** of you have been jealous of your best friend.

Write to Us!



We would love to hear what topics you'd like to read about in "Friendship Matters." Send us your suggestions. We'd also like to hear your thoughts about our topic for the May/June 2005 issue: Keeping in Touch. How do you stay connected with friends who are far away? Do you send pretty packages or create clever e-mails? Write to us at the address on page 2 and let us know! ★



THE Good Vibes Club

by Carolyn Mackler

Mayzie wasn't too worried about all the teasing at recess—until she became the next victim.

Recess stinks. I don't care that seventh graders like my sister, Jamie, say how they loved gossiping at the Grapevine during fifth-grade recess. I think it's the worst part of the day.

It comes after lunch, when everyone stampedes out of the cafeteria, pumped on grape juice and brownies. The teachers herd all forty of us onto this sprawling lawn. They say we're supposed to be playing. But playing in public is just not cool anymore. It's only three weeks into the school year and I've already figured out that fifth grade is about looking mature, acting like you're in junior high.

Most girls spend recess at the Grapevine, which is a chain-link fence on one edge of the school yard. Sometimes I hang out there, sketching in my notebook or practicing my signature—*Mayzie Richmond*. I don't have much to contribute to the conversation, since all they talk about is who's wearing what today and who's going to wear what tomorrow. Jamie is always telling me I need to get into clothes. But I can't help it that I'm more excited about brand-new art supplies than brand-name jeans.

The teachers say kickball is the official sport of recess. But the real sport is teasing other kids. It started on the fourth day of school. So far there's been a new victim every week. You never know who it's going to be or when or why.

The first victim was Trish.

"Look at Trish's purse!" a girl shouted at recess two weeks ago.

"It's a putrid pigskin purse," a boy said as he shoved his glasses up the bridge of his nose.

Trish is skinny and has overly long bangs. On that particular Monday, she was toting a purple purse with a brass buckle. It was definitely ugly, but it's not like I was going to say anything.

The next day, Trish left the purse at home. Even so, she couldn't walk onto the school yard that entire week without someone joking about how she'd committed a fashion felony.



Illustrations: Suzette Barbier

Trish told her mom who told the principal who told the teachers to tell the fifth graders to cool it or else. It sort of worked, but every so often someone coughs “putrid” under his or her breath and Trish’s eyes squint up like she’s going to sneeze.

The second victim was Alex.

“Alex is wearing makeup!” a tall guy blurted out during recess last week.

As Alex lowered his flushing face, another kid chimed in, “What are you? A girlie girl?”

Alex and I used to eat lunch together in fourth grade, when boys and girls could hang out without people gossiping about it. He was the first kid in our class to get zits. And on that particular day in September, he had cover-up smeared on his chin.

The following day, Alex had skipped the cover-up. But that didn’t stop kids from taunting him.

“Look, it’s a pepperoni pizza!” A girl pointed at Alex’s bumpy chin. “What happened? Leave your makeup at home?”



A guy waggled a pen toward Alex’s face and said, “Connect the dots!”

Halfway through recess, Alex went to the nurse’s office. He told the teacher he had a sore throat, but you could tell

he was shaken up about being the victim of the week.

And now, on a warm Tuesday in late September, it’s me.

“Mayzie is talking to herself!” Gina barked across the school yard.

My head shot up. I was sitting cross-legged in the grass, the autumn sun toasting my shoulders, as I opened the padded envelope from my cousin, Leesa. My cousin is nineteen and the coolest person on the planet. By cool, I’m not talking about clothes and hair. I’m talking about real cool. My mom calls Leesa a “free spirit.” She’s got a wacky sense of humor and she dances when there’s no music playing. Leesa and I have a special cousin bond because we have the same hazel-colored eyes and we’re both artists.

This is why, when she went away to school in California last year, we decided to make collages together. We’re already on our third. It starts by her mailing me a piece of tagboard with something on it—a magazine cutout or a sketch or some glittery words. I add one thing and send it back to her, and then she adds one thing and sends it back to me and so on, until the entire canvas is filled up.

Yesterday afternoon I received the ongoing collage from Leesa. I’d brought it with me to school in the hopes of stopping by the art room and doing my part. I kept laughing when I looked at Leesa’s latest addition. It was a photograph of a highway



rest stop with a sign out front that says, “Children with gas eat free.” Obviously, it was supposed to mean that if you fill your tank, your kids get a free meal. But it sounds like...well...that’s exactly what was cracking me up as I peeked at it during recess.

“Crazy Mayzie! Crazy Mayzie!” a chorus of girls shrieked, drawing air-circles around their ears with their fingers.

I was tempted to yell back, “Oh, gee, what an original nickname! You think I’ve gone through

You think I’ve gone through ten years of life without anyone realizing that “Mayzie” rhymes with “crazy”?

So there I was, laughing to myself, when Gina caught me in the act. I knew I was in trouble right away. Gina has curly hair and a ski-jump nose, and she’s the meanest kid in fifth grade.

“Look at Mayzie!” Gina shouted, pointing at me. “Babbling to herself, just like a crazy person!”

ten years of life without anyone realizing that ‘Mayzie’ rhymes with ‘crazy’? You guys are a real gang of Einsteins.”

But my throat was too tight to speak. I stuffed the envelope into my backpack and dug my fingers into the ground.



I picked some dirt out from under my thumbnail and flicked it to the floor.

That night, when I went into the bathroom to brush my teeth, Jamie was hogging the mirror. Jamie and I both have frizzy hair. She goes at hers like a lion tamer—glopping in gel, blow-drying it straight. I pretty much leave mine alone.

“Jamie?”

“Yeah?”

“Did anyone ever tease you when you were in fifth grade?”

Jamie parted her hair to one side and studied her new look. “You mean at recess?”

I nodded.

“Oh, no,” she said, shaking her head as she picked up a hot curling iron.

“What?”

“I’m sorry to say it, Maze, but you’re a goner for the rest of the week. Maybe longer.”

My stomach lurched. “Is there anything I can do?”

Jamie aimed the curling iron toward my head. “You can try harder to fit in, have Mom take you to the mall, do something about your hair. That might work.”

“I’m sorry to say it, Maze, but you’re a goner for the rest of the week. Maybe longer.”

I retreated into the doorway. My sister frequently scorches her neck with the curling iron. I don’t care what they say about the price of beauty. I don’t want to pay.



Just before I went to bed, I took the envelope from Leesa out of my backpack. I sat on the rug and pulled out the collage. This time, I didn’t laugh when I saw “Children with gas eat free.” I wasn’t exactly in a laughing mood. Instead, I studied all the artwork on the collage. We’ve been making this one since May and it’s about two-thirds done. A few weeks ago, Leesa had written in silvery ink across the top “The Good Vibes Cousins.” And next to it she’d drawn a picture of the two of us making the peace sign with our fingers.

That’s just like Leesa. She’s always talking peace and vibes. I once asked her what she meant by vibes.

“Vibes is short for vibrations,” she said. “It’s basically the feeling you get from someone. Nice people give off good vibes. People want to hang out with them. They feel happy and safe around them.”

“What about bad vibes?” I asked. “How can you tell if someone has bad vibes?”

Leesa shook her head. “Sometimes it’s hard to tell at first. Everyone might think they’re funny or popular. But the truth generally comes out. In the

long run, people who give off bad vibes won’t find themselves with a lot of friends.”

I ran my fingers across Leesa’s silver words. I wondered what she’d say about what happened at recess today. She once told me that you have to be yourself even if it means being different from others. And if people have a problem with it, then they’re the ones with the problem.

I slid the collage back into the envelope. As I crawled into bed, I felt a teensy bit better for the first time since recess.

Even so, I had nightmares about Gina’s nostrils in my face, and I heard her cackling as she sang, “Crazy Mayzie, Crazy Mayzie, Crazy Mayzie.”

The next day at recess, word spread about me. I took my mom’s advice and ignored everyone. I’d had an ice cream sandwich at lunch and it felt cold in my stomach. When Gina and the other girls joked about how I talk to myself, I stared at a cluster of

That afternoon, I found my mom working at her computer.

“Mom? Can you talk?”

She clicked *save* and glanced at me.

I stared at my fingernails. They were crammed with half-moons of dirt. “Some kids made fun of me at recess.”

My mom’s eyes crinkled. “What happened?”

“I laughed out loud while I was looking at the collage from Leesa, so they started saying I talk to myself. But I wasn’t even talking. I was just laughing. It’s so stupid.”

“Ignore them, sweetie,” my mom said. “They’re probably doing it to see if they’ll get a reaction. I’m sure they’ll forget by tomorrow.”

trees on the other side of the school yard. The leaves had started changing, so I pretended to be fascinated by the foliage.

A bunch of guys had been playing kickball. They finished their game and jogged past me.

So maybe who I am is a little different. So maybe who I am is an artist, not a gossip or a clothes nut.

"Look," one boy said as he wiped the sweat off his forehead. "Crazy Mayzie is staring into thin air, just like a mental patient."

I continued looking at the trees, acting like I hadn't heard him.

"Guess she's deaf as well as crazy," another kid said, and they all cracked up.

I held my breath to keep from crying. I could taste the vanilla ice cream in my throat as I chanted *Ignore, ignore, ignore* over and over in my head.

Before recess on Thursday, I thought about what Jamie had told me, about how I should try harder to fit in. As everyone shoved out of the cafeteria, I scrambled into the bathroom and doused my hair with a palmful of water, smoothing out the frizz.

But as soon as I stepped onto the school yard, Gina sneered, "Look at Crazy Mayzie's hair!"

"I bet she was trying to drink," shouted a girl with freckles, "but she's too crazy to know where her mouth is."

They both snickered. My stomach was in knots. I felt like I was going to either cry or actually go crazy. But then I thought about what Leesa had said, about how you have to be who you are. So maybe who I am is a little different. So maybe who I am is an

artist, not a gossip or a clothes nut. So maybe who I am is laughing out loud when I feel like it. And if Gina and the others have a problem with it...well, then it's their problem. Not mine. At least I'm not going to let it be my problem anymore.

I took a calming breath before walking over to the Grapevine.

"What's wrong, Crazy Mayzie?" Gina asked as she slid on a layer of lip gloss. "Get lost on your way to the mental hospital?"

"Actually," I said, "I came over here to tell you that if you've ever heard of vibes, you give off some seriously bad ones. So why don't you quit saying things about me. Because I don't care, O.K.? I couldn't care less."



Gina gawked at me, the lip gloss still clutched in her fingers.

I didn't wait around for her response. I walked across the lawn to where Alex was watching the kickball game. Ever since the cover-up incident, no one's chosen him for their team.

"Hey, Alex!" I called out. "Want to take a walk?" "Sure," he said, shrugging. "Why not?"

Alex and I headed toward the trees. I searched the ground for red and orange leaves. I've decided I want to iron one between waxed paper and glue it to the collage before sending it back to Leesa.

As Alex and I were walking, we passed Trish sitting on the grass by herself. She had an open book in her lap, but you could tell she wasn't reading.

"Trish?" I asked.

She pushed her bangs out of her eyes and glanced up at me.

"Want to walk with us?"

"O.K.!" she said. She sprang up so quickly, she reminded me of a jack-in-the-box.

Alex and Trish and I chatted about school and what was on TV last night. As I picked up a bright yellow leaf, I thought about how maybe I should

form a group. I'd call it the Good Vibes Club. The initial members would be Alex and Trish and me. We'd stick together at recess. Every week, when they began picking on another kid, I'd invite that person to join. The only rule of membership would be No Teasing.

I did some quick calculations. There are forty kids in the fifth grade. If there's a new victim every week, the Good Vibes Club could have twenty-plus members by February.

And then we'd outnumber the other kids. And then recess wouldn't stink after all. ★

Meet the Author



Carolyn Mackler

When I was in fifth grade, some girls bullied me during recess. It was so hard to figure out how to handle it. I wish I'd had a cousin like Leesa to tell me all about vibes.

Brainwaves

activities and puzzles

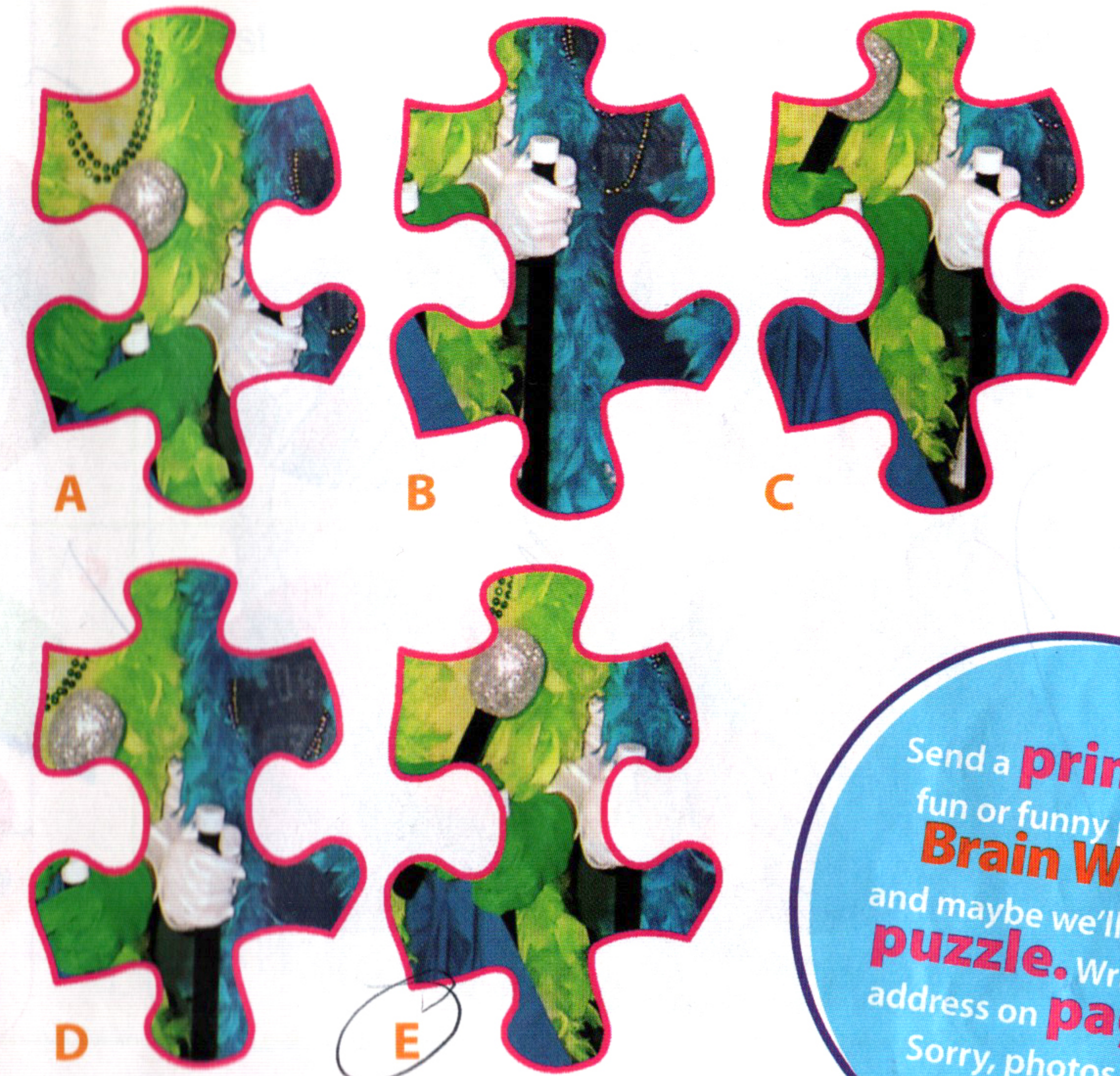
Haunted Houses

Circle the house that's *slightly* different from the rest. (The cobwebs aren't helping!)
Once the clouds block the moon it gets spooky, so you only have one minute.



Photo Fun

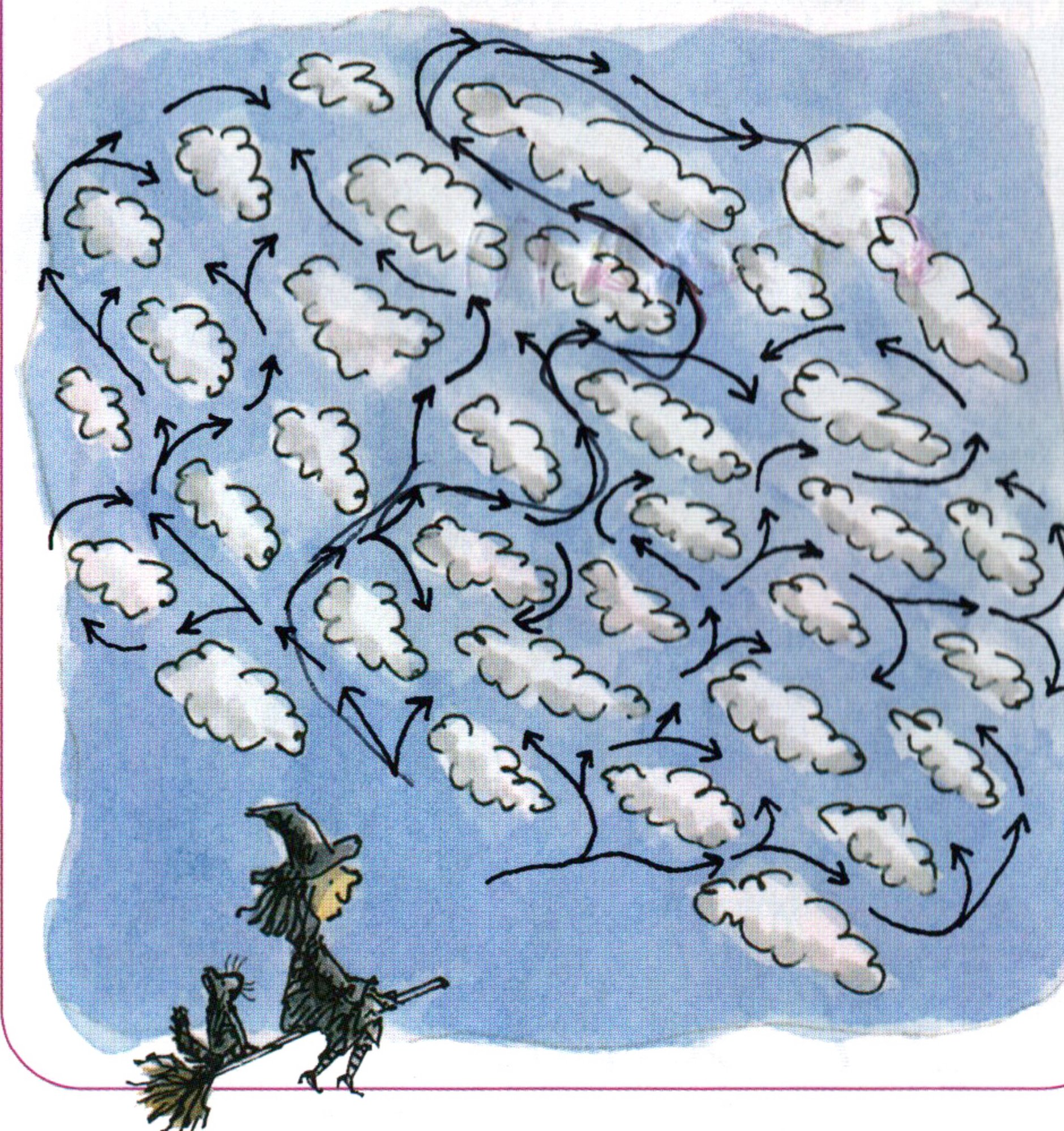
Find the only piece that completes this photo sent in by Paige W., age 11, and Shelby H., age 11, of Wisconsin.



Send a **print** of your fun or funny photo to **Brain Waves** and maybe we'll use it in a **puzzle**. Write to the address on **page 2**. Sorry, photos can't be returned.

Witch Way

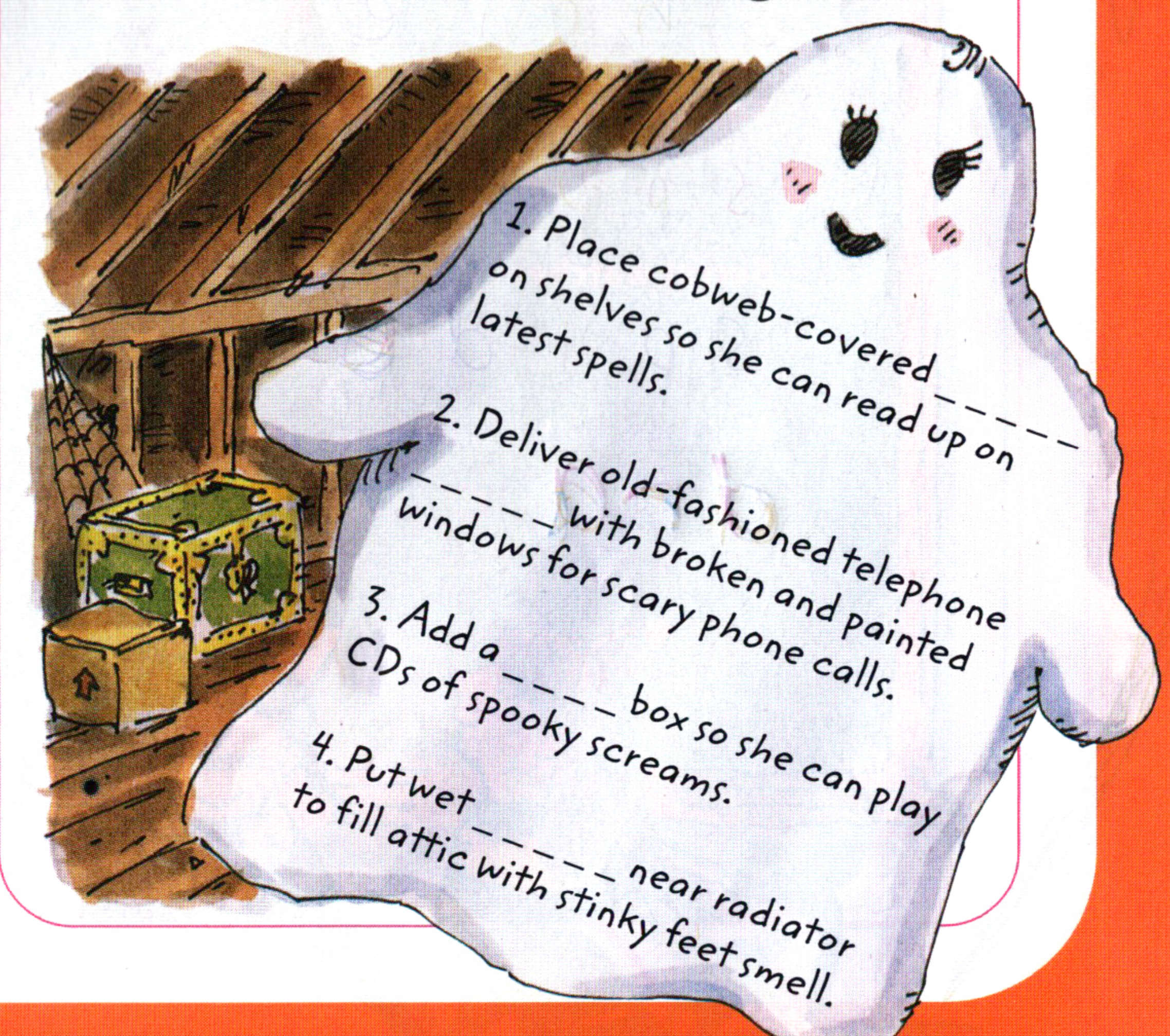
Follow the wind currents to find the only path for the witch to reach the moon.



Illustrations: Paul Meisel

Scary Spaces

A ghost wants to redo her attic, but only likes design ideas that include the word "boo." Fill in the blanks with ideas she might like.



Art Sleuth

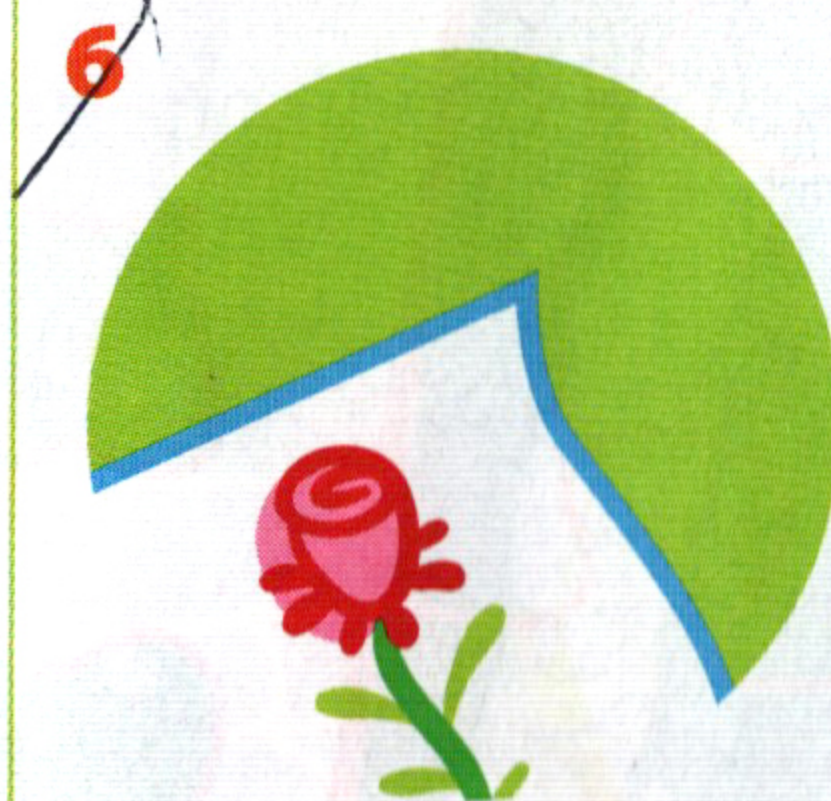
Search the pages of this issue to find where each snippet of the photo or illustration shown below came from. Write down the page number where you found it.



1 25 2 30

3 17 4 47

5 23 6 3



Scary Spelling

To find these scary words, fill in the definitions, subtracting letters as asked.

Example: **walkway to class + in debt to someone + en = Halloween!**

1 Bashful - y + bawled - cd

shriek

2 Soup utensil - n + abbreviation for Kentucky

spooky

3 Secret watcher - y + and go seek - h

spider

4 Make art with a pencil - w + Hawaiian dance - h

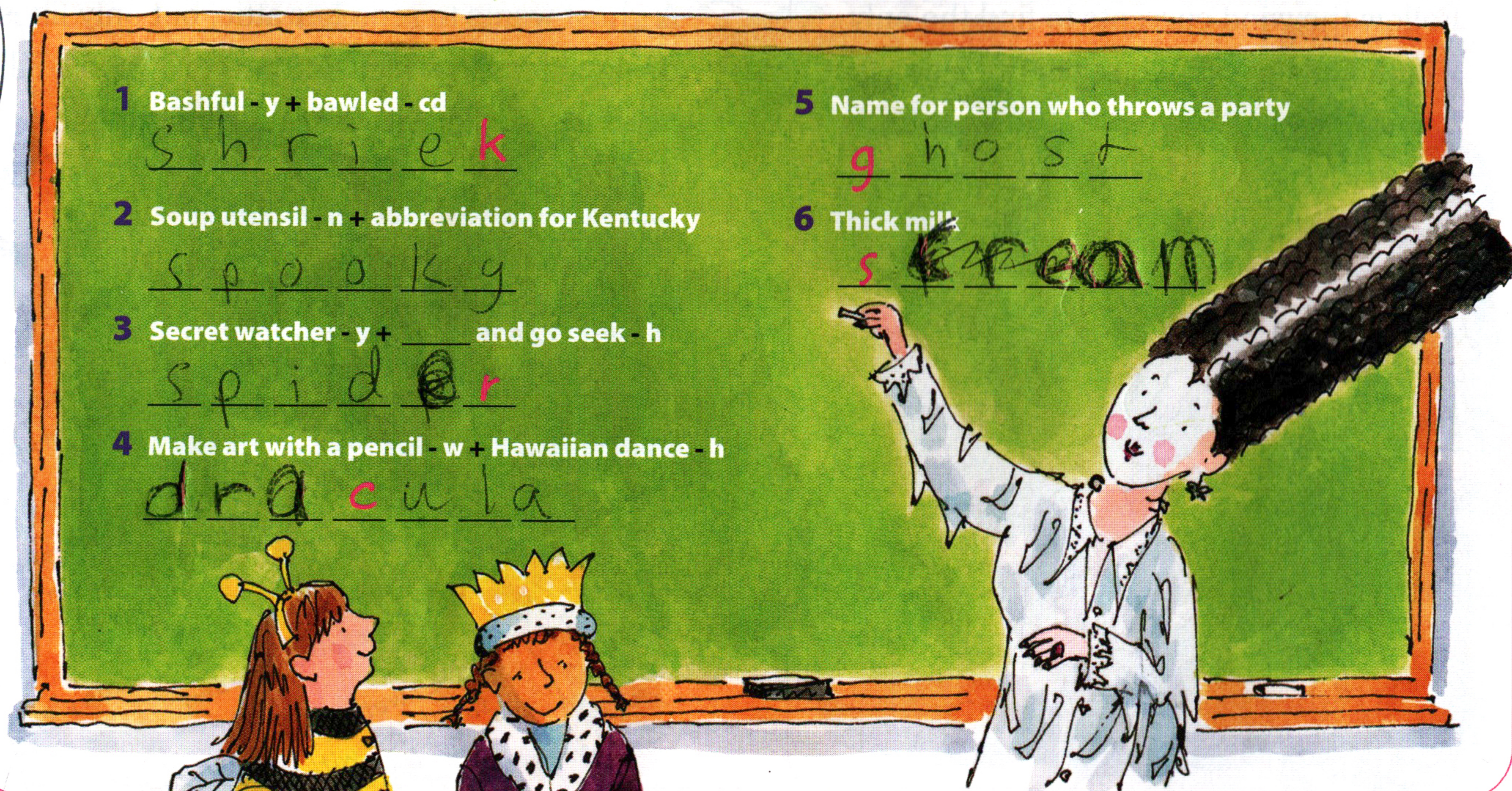
dracula

5 Name for person who throws a party

ghost

6 Thick milk

cream



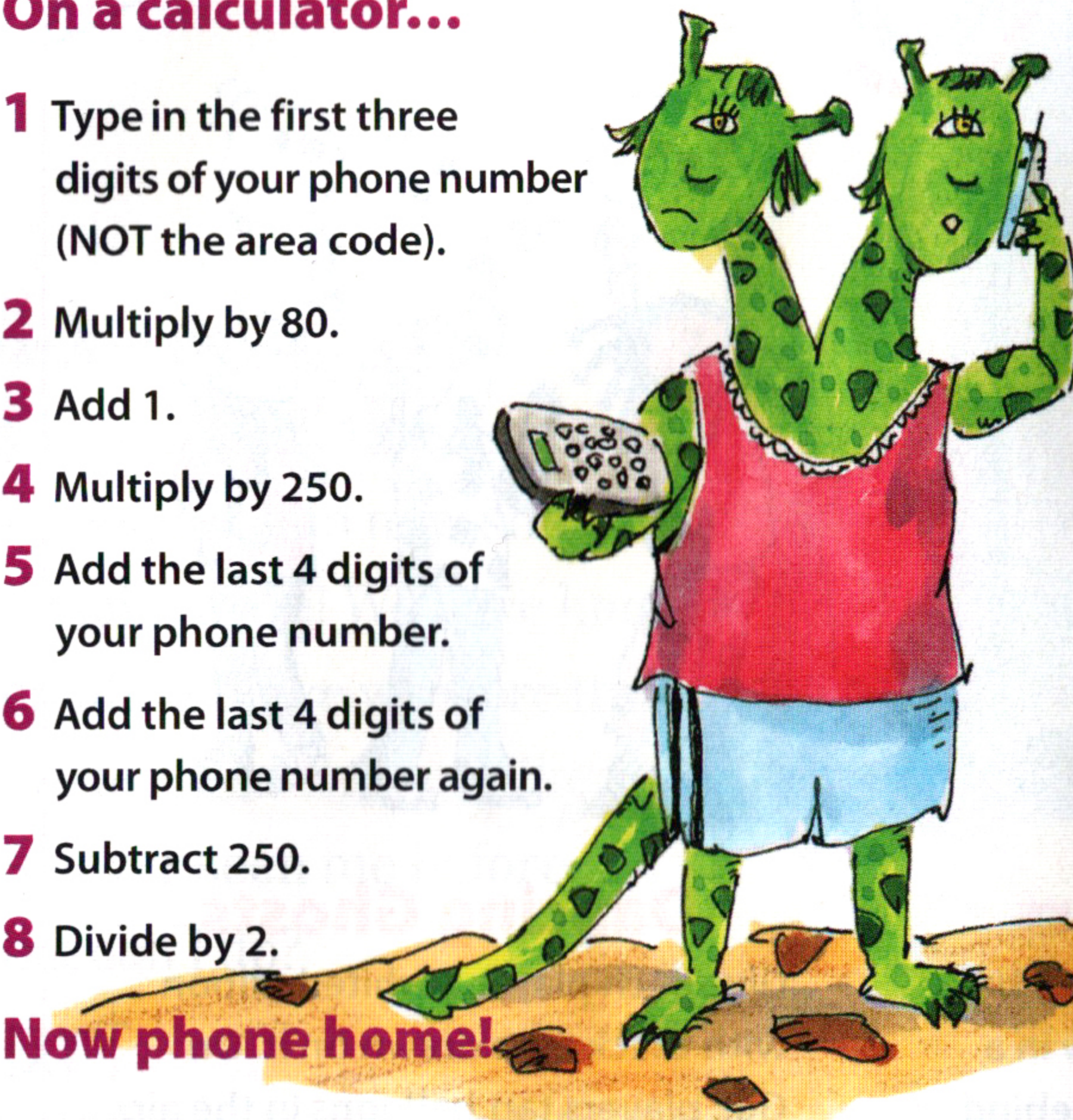
Call-culation

If aliens knew this trick, they wouldn't have such problems phoning home!

On a calculator...

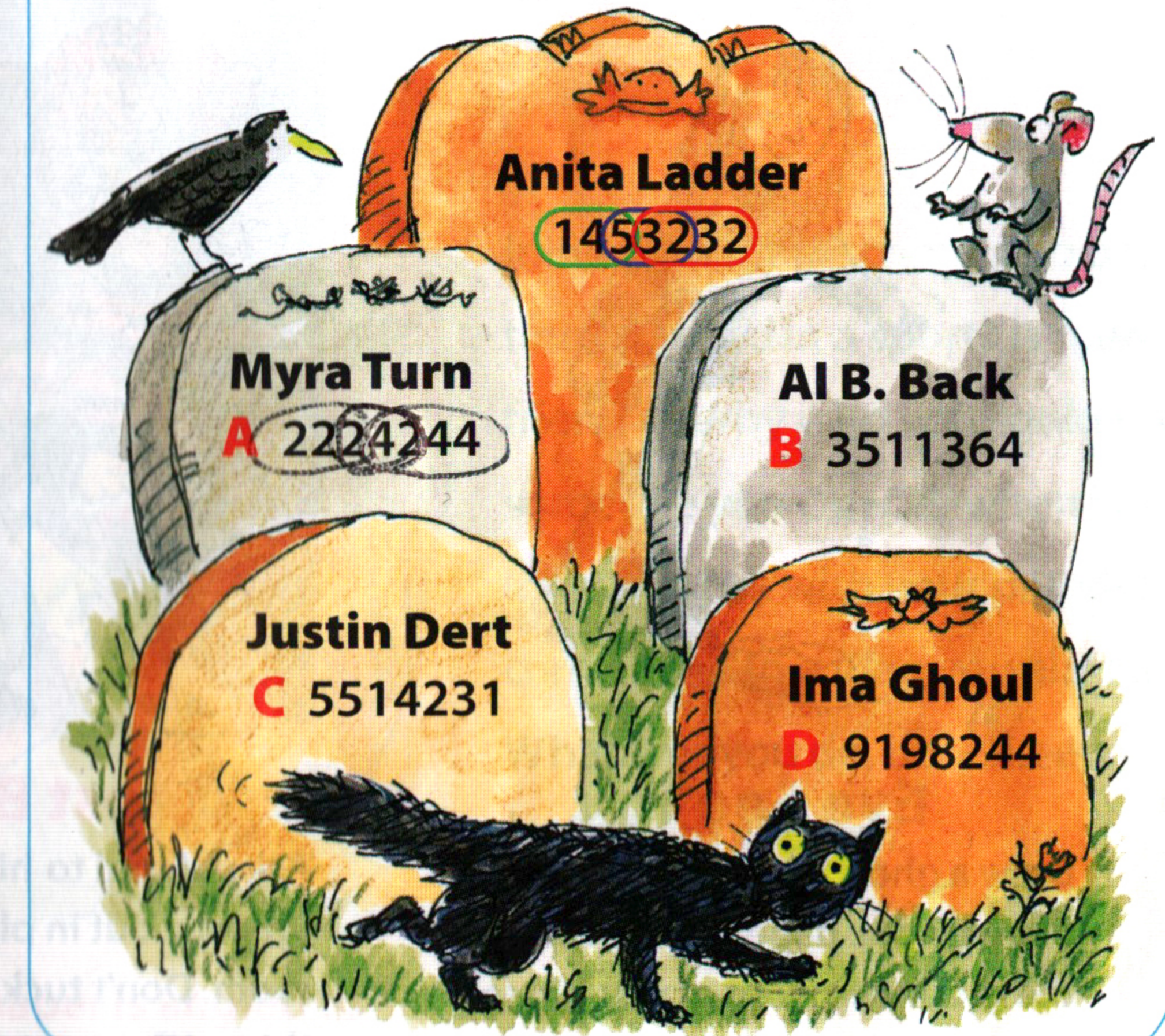
- 1 Type in the first three digits of your phone number (NOT the area code).
- 2 Multiply by 80.
- 3 Add 1.
- 4 Multiply by 250.
- 5 Add the last 4 digits of your phone number.
- 6 Add the last 4 digits of your phone number again.
- 7 Subtract 250.
- 8 Divide by 2.

Now phone home!



Count to Ten

Count the groups of consecutive numbers that add up to 10 on each tombstone. The first one had three groups. Find four groups on each remaining tombstone.



Laffateria

What do vampires wear in the fall?



Their bat-to-school clothes.

Lindsey D.
Age 12, New York

You're in a dark house with a candle, a fireplace, and an oil lamp. You have only one match. Which do you light first?



The match.

Nicki B.
Age 11, Wisconsin

What did the chef say when she served her specialty to the skeleton?



Bone appetit!

Clove H.
Age 11, Wisconsin

What do you call a dog who loves garlic and anchovies?



A dog whose bark is much worse than his bite!

Sandy H.
Age 13, Wisconsin

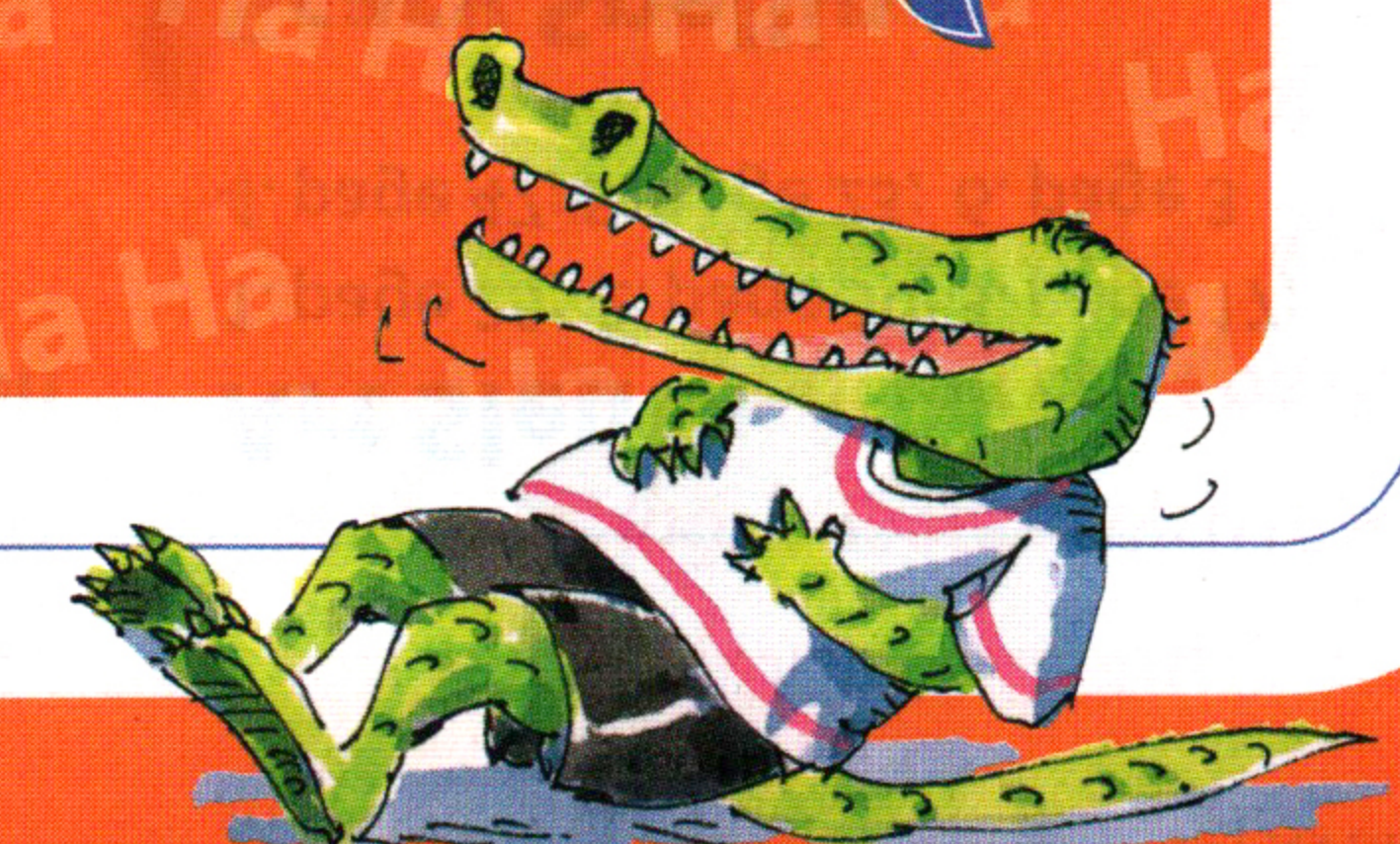
What will a vampire never order in a restaurant?



A stake sandwich.

Ashley P.
Age 12, Oklahoma

Funny Business
Send your best joke to Brain Waves! Write to the address on page 2. Include your name, birth date, school photo, and signature.



Can You Do It?

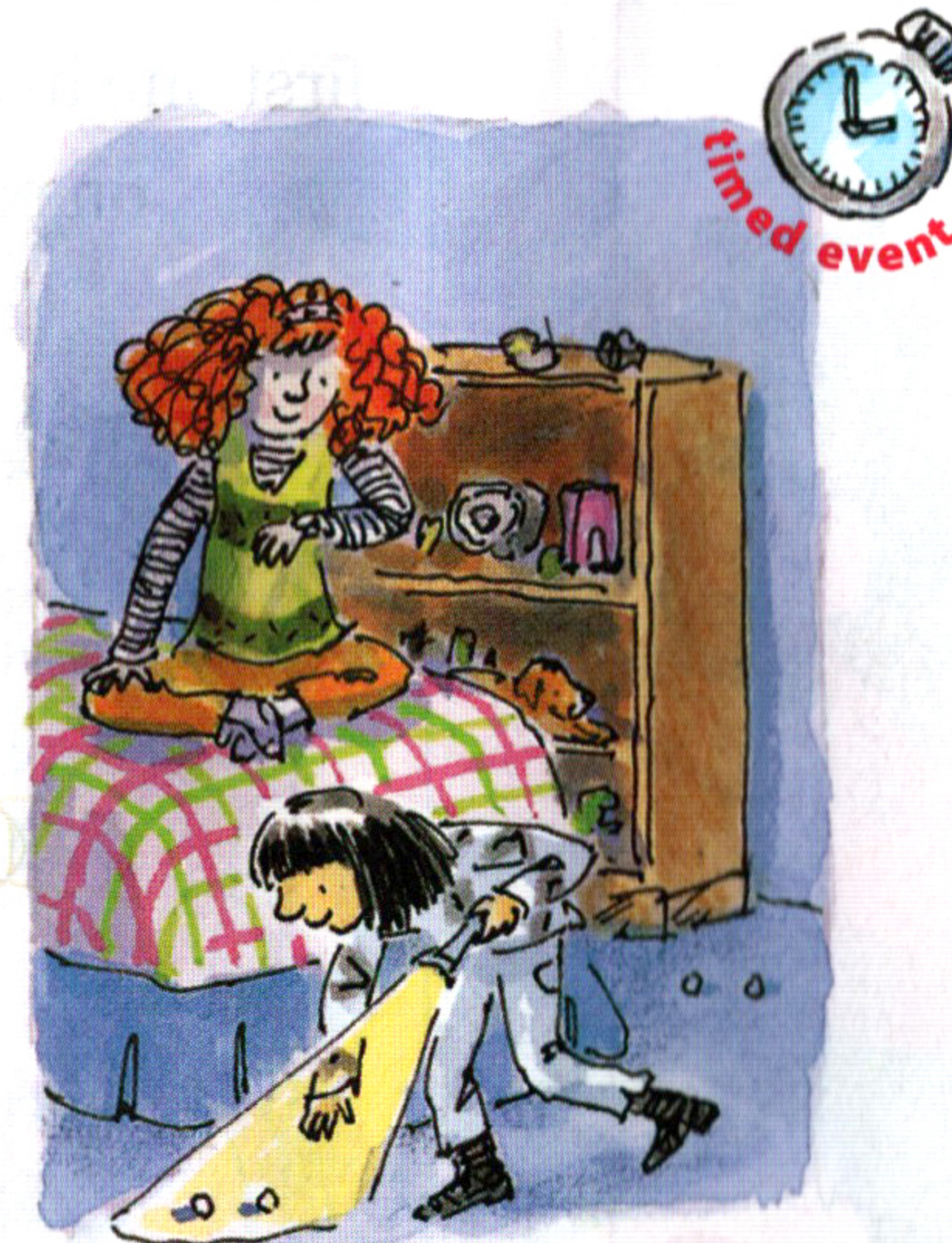
Get in the mood for Halloween with these ghostly dares!



Eye See You

Draw a ghost's outline on a sheet of notebook paper, and place it on the ground in front of you. Close your eyes, hold an arm out straight, and drop two black buttons over the paper. Did you get both of the ghost's eyes inside the outline? How many tries did it take?

Number of tries: _____



Ghost Busters

Ask a friend to hide cotton balls (ghosts) out in plain view in a room. Don't tuck them behind things! Turn out the lights and grab a flashlight. You have one minute to find as many ghosts as you can. Now switch and give your friend a try.

Best ghost buster: _____



Dancing Ghosts

Give each player a white balloon with black eyes drawn on it. On Go!, players tap balloons in the air. Here's the catch: *You can't move your feet once you start!* If a balloon touches the ground, that player sits out. The one who can keep her "ghost" floating the longest wins.

Best player: _____

Answer Box

Buzzword

A. 2224244
B. 3511364
C. 5514231
D. 91982441

Count to Ten

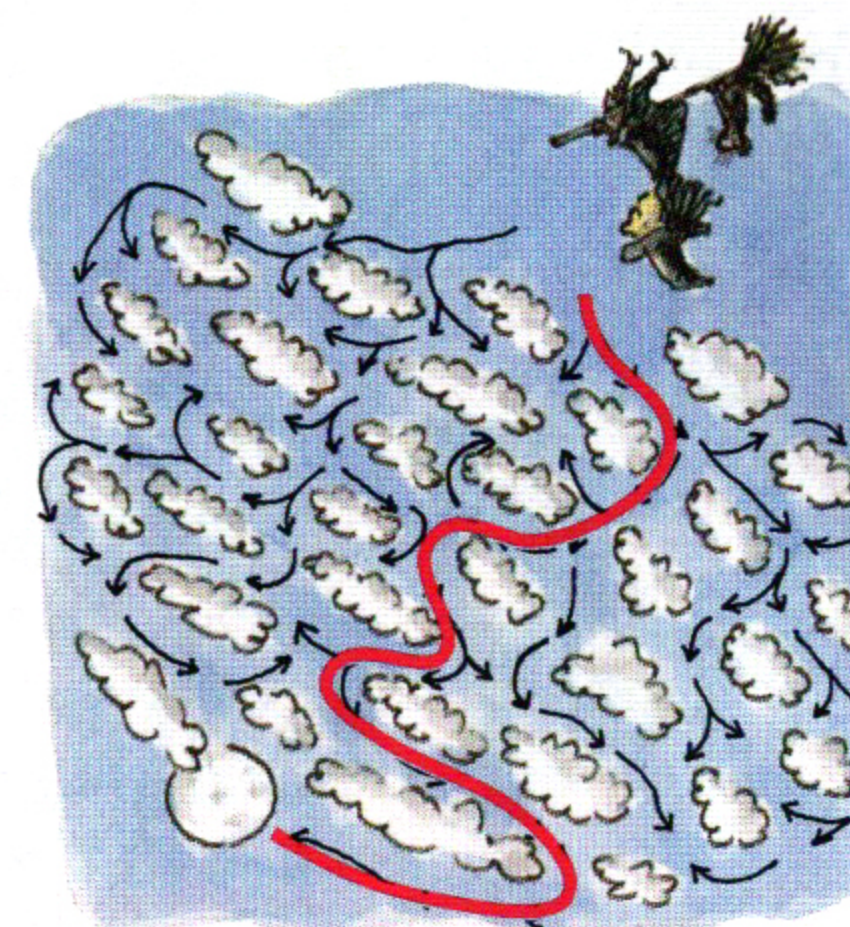
1. shriek 2. spooky 3. spider
4. Dracula 5. ghost 6. scream

Scary Spelling

1. page 25; 2. page 30; 3. page 17;
4. page 47; 5. page 23; 6. page 3

Art Sleuth

1. books 2. booth 3. boom 4. boots
Scary Spaces



Witch Way

Photo Fun



Haunted House

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

My best friend just became a cheerleader, and now she won't even talk to me! We have known each other since we were three years old, and she acts like she has never seen me before.

What can I do?

Hurt

It sounds like your friend is trying out a whole new lifestyle. Your friendship with her is changing, but not necessarily ending. You should let your friend know how you feel. If you can't talk to her at school, call her. Be friendly, not accusing. Listen to what she says and give her some space. After a while, she may start to miss your friendship. And if she doesn't? That can really hurt, but try not to take it personally. Take care of yourself and spend time with friends who enjoy the same things you do.

Dear American Girl,

I'm left-handed! When I write, I smudge everywhere. I try my best not to smudge, but it doesn't work. What should I do?

Lefty



Make sure your paper is angled to the right so that you can keep your hand under the line you're writing on, not sliding across it. Some pens are easier for lefties to use than others, so try different kinds to find one that works for you. Don't hold the pen too tightly, and use a plastic pen grip to make writing easier. Take your time when you write and practice a little every day. Soon your writing will be smudge-free!

Dear American Girl,

When I get home from school, I am all alone. My parents don't know, but I get depressed. Should I tell my parents?

Depressed One

Definitely tell your parents how you feel. Talk with them about ways you could fix the problem. What about

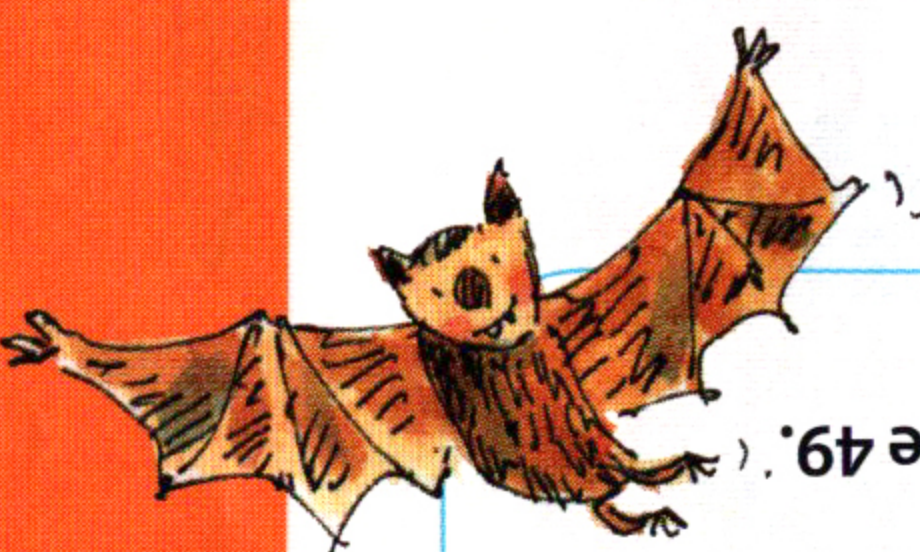
joining an after-school club or getting involved in a sport? Is there a friend nearby who you could visit or someone you can call when you feel lonely? Work with your parents to come up with a plan you all like. Whatever you do, don't keep your feelings to yourself.

Dear American Girl,

In P.E. class we are practicing for a fitness test, and I'm not very good at any of it. My friends are all very athletic. They try not to show it, but I can tell that they are feeling sorry for me.

Just not an athlete

Being physically fit is important for everyone, not just athletes. Do the best you can in P.E. and find fun ways to get active outside of school, too. Just get your heart pumping every day for at least 20 minutes. How about making up aerobics routines to your favorite songs? Time yourself running around the block, then try to beat your time. Do a few of the exercises you're learning at school every afternoon. You can't be good at everything, but stick with it, and you will see improvement!



Batliwick is used on page 49.

MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I have to be a rock in my first play! I only have one line. I've done everything so well in choir, and my teacher still gave me that part. No one can cheer me up!

Heartbroken

You may have a small part, but treat it as a big commitment. Be on time for practice. Learn your line and know where you're supposed to be onstage. Offer to help with anything else that needs to be done. Let your teacher know you enjoyed being in the play and that you'd like to do it again. If you take this part seriously, your teacher will take you seriously when it comes time to pick parts for the next play.



Dear American Girl,

I started wearing a bra and I told my friend. The next day at school, she told some people. Every morning one of them walks up to me, pulls the back of my shirt, and asks if I'm wearing a bra. Then everyone laughs at me.

So Embarrassed

That is embarrassing, all right, but there is another word for it, too—



harassment. You need to let these kids know that what they're doing is not O.K. with you, and that you won't tolerate it. If they keep doing it, follow your school's guidelines for reporting harassment. With every problem, you have to ask yourself, *Is this worth getting upset about?* If it had happened just once, then maybe not. But when harassment continues, you shouldn't let it go. And as for the friend who blabbed your secret to people at school? If this is the first time she's let you down, you can give her another chance. If not, don't be so quick to trust her again. She can still be your friend, just not a close one.



Dear American Girl,

My parents are divorced. If I'm at my mom's house talking to

my dad on the phone, I feel like my mom will get sad if she hears me say "I love you" to my dad. It's the same when I visit my dad. What should I do?

Not Sure

It's always O.K. to tell your parents you love them. The divorce didn't change their love for you or the fact that you love both of them. No matter what, they'll always be your parents, and they'll always love you. It's O.K. to tell them you love them, too.



Advice from You

"I have some advice for girls who feel like they don't have enough clothes, but can't go out and buy more right away. Try to mix your clothes together. Put your button-up shirt over a tank top, and leave it open. Or put a short-sleeved shirt over a long-sleeved shirt."

Erica C.
Age 12, Colorado

Need advice? Got advice? Write:
Help!

American Girl Magazine™

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Tara E. posed many ways for our cover shoot. Do you like the picture we chose? Vote for your favorite at "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com.



Since Tracey Wood's bailiwick is drawing, she was our first choice for the new illustrator in Girls Express. Here is her favorite Halloween memory:

"I used to dump my Halloween candy on the floor and sort it into piles— gum, chocolate bars, and candy. My dad was always hovering nearby, waiting until all the licorice (yuk!) had been put in a pile. I'd scoop up the licorice and dump it in his eager hands. He loved Halloween just as much as I did!"



Behind the Scenes

Check out the fun we had while making this issue of *American Girl*!

Here are your top five favorite types of Halloween candy:

- 1 Mini candy bars
- 2 Candy corn
- 3 Bubble gum
- 4 Fruit-flavored candy
- 5 Lollipops



Hannah B., age 12, tests Eye Spy from "Halloweek!"

"I put the google eyes on my toenails, too and I loved the way it looked!"

For more games and ghoulish giggles, go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com!

Write to us!

There are lots of ways to be a part of *American Girl*!

- Take the poll in Girls Express
- Enter a contest
- Send your thoughts to Friendship Matters
- Send a joke to Brain Waves
- Give some advice to Help!

We want to hear from you! Write to us at the address on page 2.



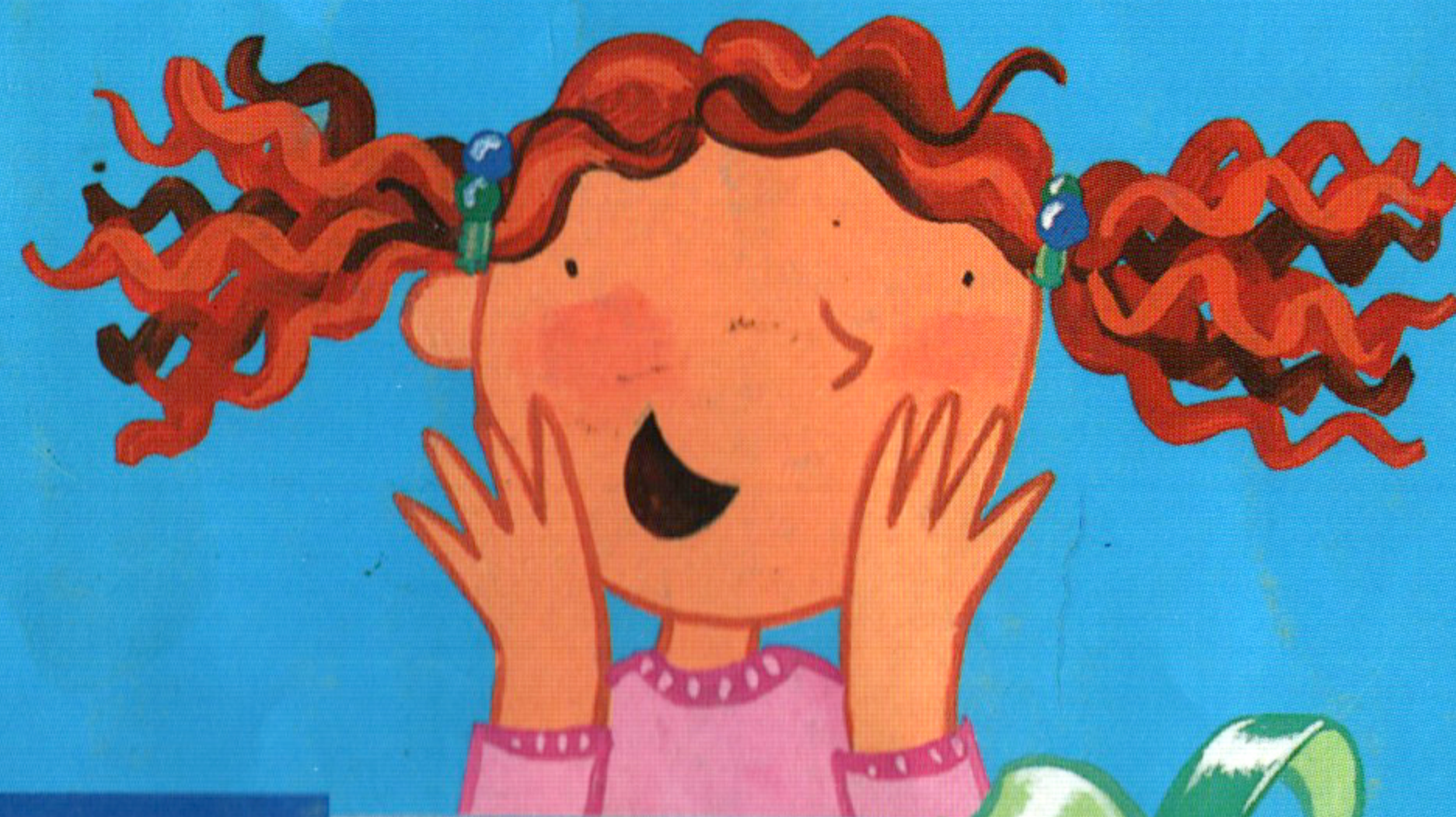
Gabrielle B., age 13, Louisiana

See more self-portraits. Go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com.



Unbelievable!

Meet girls who have had really amazing things happen to them!

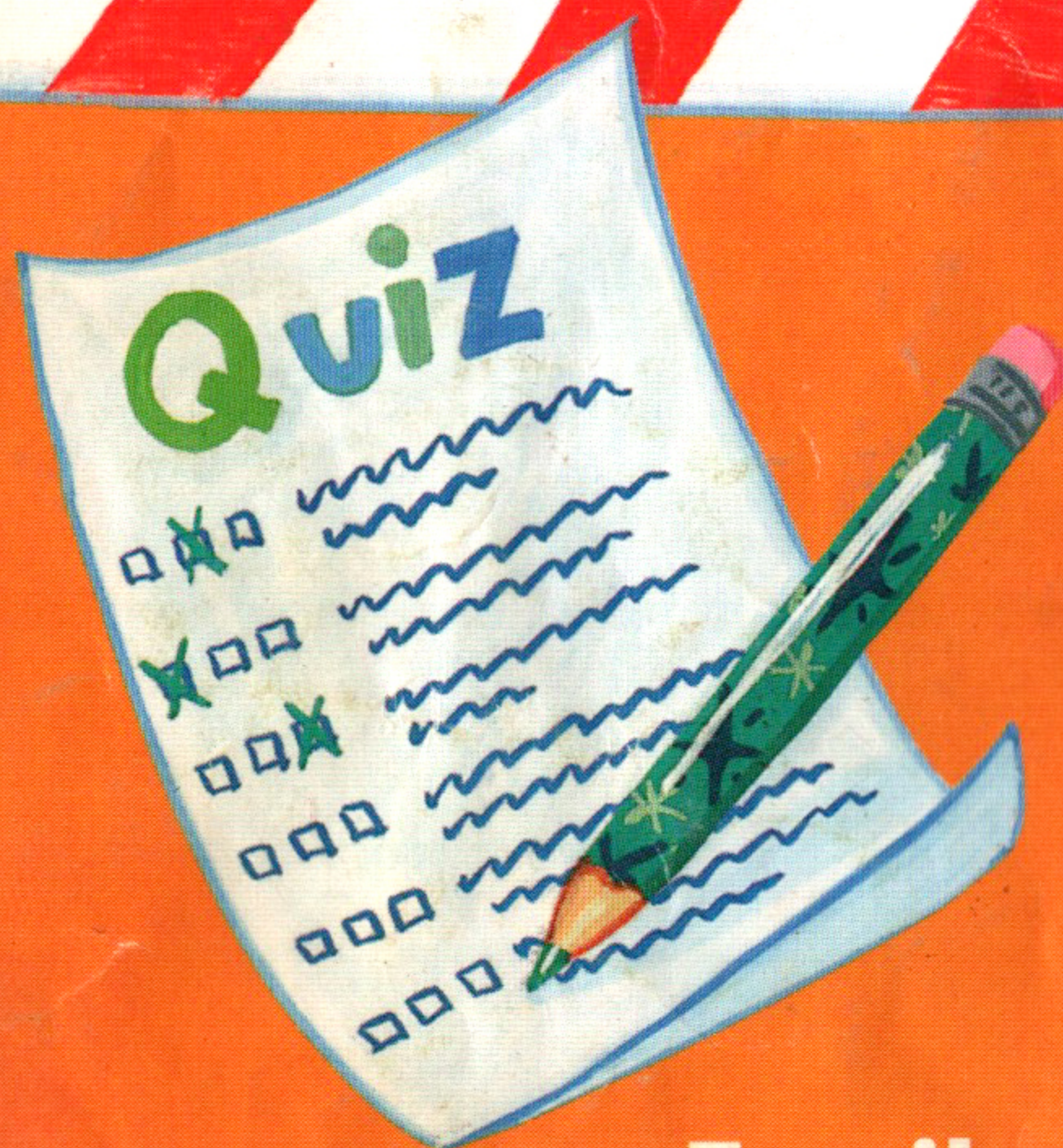


A Sweet Holiday Story

Read the winner of our short-story contest!

American Girl

Coming up in the November/December issue



Family Fun

Take this silly quiz with your relatives to see what you have in common.

For You, from Me

Clever holiday gifts that will make your family and friends smile

I Love You

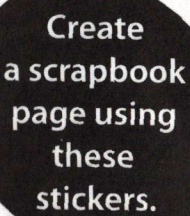
Readers share their sweetest ways to let someone know they care.

Holidazzle

See the cutest ornaments sent in by AG readers!



Dress up your photos with these silly stickers!



**Add stickers
to school photos
of your friends.**

